Couple seeks federal court's action vs USCIS. PAGE 2
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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

ON BILL ADDRESSING MOLD, AC UNITS AT GUMA HUSTISIA

House denies Senate amendments

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The 20th CNMI Legislature will plunge into a conference committee after the House of Representatives rejected Senate amendments to a bill that appropriates $15 million to various projects throughout the Commonwealth, including the mold mediation and air-conditioning replacement of the Guma Hustisia.

After being shut down for more than a month, the Guma Hustisia would have to wait for a few more weeks as bicameral discussions ensue as the House during a session yesterday rejected Senate amendments to Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-164.

The Senate moved money around that were supposedly directed to the Sugar Dock restoration project and $3 million to a secured account in

See HOUSE on Page 4

MIF yields 6 resolutions; 3 letters

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The 23rd Micronesia Island Forum last week yielded a total of six resolutions with two letters directed toward the Guam Legislature as well as to a federal entity regarding a shared concern throughout Micronesia.

Over the span of three days, the forum from April 25 to 27, 2018 was attended by nine Micronesia islands leaders who discussed issues pertaining to their own islands and island nations and attempted to address issues shared in the region.

Of the six resolutions passed, one was for the rules and proce-

See MIF on Page 4

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Tourism-related organizations gathered for the Tourism Month proclamation signing yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room on Capitol Hill.

May is month to celebrate tourism

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The tourism industry makes up about 72 percent of the CNMI's economy and May has been designated to celebrate it.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, May has been proclaimed Tourism Month and it is initially to recognize all the stakeholders of the tourism industry in the CNMI.

"May is the time for us to reflect, pay tribute, and celebrate those who work hard day in and day out, 24 hours a day, to support this industry.

The biggest event in store for Tourism Month is the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden. Taste of the Marianas is the biggest food festival in the CNMI.

Concepcion said that this year MVA has incorporated new activities

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas announced that they will present two more installments in the *We Drank Our Tears* film series at the Regal Saipan Megaplex today.

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WORLD

Israel's prime minister on Monday unveiled what he said was a "half ton" of Iranian nuclear documents collected by Israeli intelligence.

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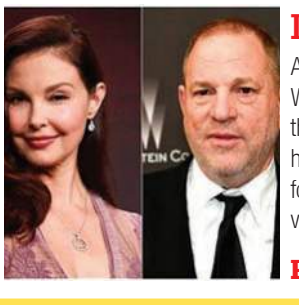

LIFE & STYLE

Ashley Judd sued Harvey Weinstein on Monday, saying the former movie mogul hurt her acting career in retaliation for her rejecting his sexual advances.

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Local

AS GREEN CARD PETITION ENTERS 33RD MONTH

Couple seeks federal court's action vs USCIS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A couple is seeking the federal court's action after the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Services has not issued a decision on their I-485 application for adjustment of status to get a green card despite the passage of more than 33 months since the application was initially filed and almost 23 months since the wife's adjustment of status interview took place.

Robert Lee Hale Jr. and his wife, Suinan Zhong, through their counsel Samuel I. Mok, said at the time of the filing of their lawsuit last year against U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and several USCIS U.S. officials, they had been waiting more than 24 months for a decision as the underlying I-130 petition for alien relative and I-485 application for adjustment of status were filed on July 21, 2015.

Mok said the adjustment of status interview occurred at the USCIS office on Saipan on June 6, 2016 and all requests for additional information were satisfied on June 8, 2016.

Mok disclosed that on Dec. 18, 2017, the USCIS approved the couple's I-130 petition.

Hale, a U.S. citizen, and Zhong, a Chinese citizen, were married on Saipan on March 9, 2015.

On July 21, 2015, Hale filed with the USCIS an I-130 petition on behalf of his wife seeking to have her classified as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen based on their marriage.

On that same day, Zhong

See COUPLE on Page 4

WE WANT YOU!

A new magazine will be featuring
2 sections called
'Sugar & Spice'
and
'Insta-Post It'
and we invite you, our readers,
to participate in these sections.

In "Sugar & Spice," the magazine will feature the photos that people take of their food. Instead of just posting the photo on Facebook, why not have it published for a much wider audience? Take a photo of what you are eating and send it to us at editor@saipantribune.com, with a note saying it's for Sugar & Spice, where they ordered it, or if they made it themselves. If you made it yourself, can we have the recipe?

In "Insta-Post It," we encourage readers to send in their Instagram photos for publication, whether it's a wedding, baptism, birthday, or Christening. Wouldn't it be awesome to have your milestone featured and memorialized by the new magazine? Preserve a copy of the moment by having the magazine post it.

docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC

A Letter to the People of the CNMI

Recently, statements have appeared in the press and elsewhere suggesting that DOCOMO PACIFIC has threatened to disconnect services to Tinian and Rota on its recently-installed ATISA submarine cable if the CNMI does not move forward on approval of certain financial commitments it made to the project in 2016.

Although the source of these statements is uncertain, they in no way originated from DOCOMO PACIFIC, and they are untrue. We offer this statement to clear up any confusion and to reassure the general public and especially our customers in the CNMI that there is not—and never has been—any discussion of taking such actions.

Simply put, this is not how DOCOMO PACIFIC does business. This isn't our brand, nor will it ever be. As everyone who has ever seen one of our ads knows, our motto is "Better Together." We believed in this idea before ATISA and—more than ever—we believe in it today.

From its inception, the ATISA submarine cable project was about bringing together Guam and the CNMI in the spirit of unity and interconnectedness as "One Marianas". As part of our goal to make sure that we included Tinian and Rota in the project, we engaged the CNMI Legislature and the Governor to determine a financially sound means of doing so.

The $3 million in public funding under discussion was a key part of a public-private partnership through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that DOCOMO PACIFIC entered into with the CNMI government in March 2016. We are grateful that we were able to enter into this partnership, which enabled us to obtain our parent company's approval to fund the additional $6M cost of connecting Rota and Tinian. And we very much appreciate the continued efforts by the CNMI government's leaders to take full advantage of the ATISA project's promise of delivering 21st century technology to its people.

To date, DOCOMO PACIFIC has invested $26 million for the ATISA cable and to modernize and expand fixed and mobiles networks in the CNMI. Not only are CNMI residents now able to enjoy our online, mobile, TV and home phone services, we are pleased that we have been able to open new retail stores and hire additional full-time employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

We regret what appears to be a misunderstanding regarding DOCOMO PACIFIC, and would welcome all opportunities to meet with our government leaders and anyone else in civil society to further address any concerns or confusion.

DOCOMO PACIFIC's commitment to the CNMI is unwavering and our efforts continue. We look forward to more discussion with our local leaders to ensure that we fulfill our commitments and continue to bring our families and our community closer to the things that matter most.

Si yu'os ma'åse'and Biba One Marianas!

Jonathan Kriegel
President & CEO
DOCOMO PACIFIC Inc.

IPI sues customer over $747K loan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC filed yesterday a lawsuit against a Las Vegas-based customer for allegedly failing to pay $747,000 in two loans.

Imperial Pacific, through counsel Catherine J. Cachero, is suing Patrick Sun for default on loans.

Imperial Pacific asked the Superior Court to hold Sun liable to pay judgment for all amounts due under the loans, plus interest, collection costs, and attorney's fees.

Imperial Pacific demanded a jury trial.

According to Cachero in the complaint, on May 30, 2017, Sun executed to Imperial Pacific a loan agreement and a promissory note.

Cachero said Sun borrowed $1 million from Imperial Pacific.

On June 6, 2017, Imperial Pacific approved Sun's request to increase his loan up to $2 million.

Cachero said Imperial Pacific disbursed the amount during Sun's trip to Saipan, which ended on June 9, 2017.

Cachero said Sun defaulted in payment of the first loan agreement and first note when he failed to pay the loans on the maturity date.

As of the date of this complaint, the lawyer said, the amount due and owing to Imperial Pacific under the first loan agreement and first note is $447,000.

Cachero said that, on June 28, 2017, Sun executed to Imperial Pacific a second loan agreement and a promissory note.

Sun borrowed $300,000 from Imperial Pacific.

Imperial Pacific disbursed to Sun the amount during his Saipan trip that ended on July 5, 2017.

Cachero said Sun defaulted in payment of the second loan agreement and second note when he failed to pay on the maturity date.

As of the date of this lawsuit, Cachero said, the amount due and owing to Imperial Pacific under the second loan agreement and second note is $300,000.

The lawyer said under the two loan agreements, the annual interest rate on each overdue loan is 24 percent per annum.

Saipan Tribune
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MIF

From Page 1

dures of the 23rd MIF to adopt its interim rules and procedures.

The first resolution passed addressing regional issues pertains to climate change and its effects to the Micronesian region, directly affects food security. Citing studies that weren't specified, the MIF stated that within about 20 years, the distribution of tuna stocks may begin to shift towards the central and eastern Pacific, while human populations within Micronesia is anticipated to grow 10 to 15 percent within the same time period.

"…Shifts in tuna distribution caused by climate change poses significant threats to food security and the livelihood of the growing population of the Pacific Island countries, especially the Micronesian region, and undermines the economic development aspirations of Micronesia through utilization of tuna resources," the resolution stated.

The MIF through the resolution expressed their "grave concern" regarding the negative effects of climate changes to the region and urged the states parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to "respect the Paris Agreement and to work towards its full implementation."

The second resolution the 23rd MIF passed a resolution calling MIF nations to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, or IUU fishing, collectively.

The resolution urged flag states to "exercise effective control" over their vessels by requiring them to refrain from engaging or supporting IUU fishing activities and by penalizing offenders.

The resolution, which cited a 2016 report prepared for the Forum Fisheries Agency, the amount of IUU tuna fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean estimated to about 300,000 metric tons with a value of $600 million and rising.

"IUU [fishing] represents a serious threat to the sustainability of tuna stocks of the Pacific, which generate significant financial benefits to the economies of Pacific islands, especially Micronesia," the resolution stated.

A resolution to expand telehealth and telemedicine in United States-affiliated Pacific Islands, or USAPIs, was also passed during the 23rd MIF. USAPIs include the islands of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, and Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, and Pohnpei of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Recognizing that the USAPIs combined is composed of more than 500,000 people who live on hundreds of islands and atolls spanning millions of square miles of ocean and crossing five Pacific time zones, "an area significantly larger than the continental U.S.," the resolution seeks to utilize information and technology to further health care in the Pacific islands.

"…The leaders of the MIF endorse in principle and as a matter of priority of regional health significance, the need to further explore opportunities to enhance and expand telehealth/telemedicine delivery to the USAPIs, where feasible and appropriate to the needs and context of each USAPI location; and, to regularly asses and evaluate such efforts in terms of cost, funding sources, technical partners/providers, and other improvements with the goal of improving health outcomes and strengthening USAPI health systems," the resolution stated.

"…The leaders will support executive and legislative efforts to ensure a supportive and enabling environment that enhances and expands USAPI health agency telehealth/telemedicine initiatives," it continued.

The 23rd MIF also passed a resolution that prioritizes the development of sustainable transportation networks in USAPIs to support economic development and stability of crucial air and sea transportation routes.

Cognizant that the a major Micronesian economic factor is its tourism and migration through exports and capital inflows, the MIF remains concerned as the USAPIs witness a "reduction of scheduled flights and important transportation routes causing significant concern on the sustainability of core markets and necessary access to the world."

"It is of paramount importance to the people and economies of the USAPIs that critical transportation services be available and consistent," the resolution stated.

"…The leaders of the MIF endorse in principle and as a matter of priority of regional economic significance, a formal request to the Office of the President of the United States of America, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs to support the transportation needs of the USAPIs, where feasible and appropriate to the needs and content of each USAPI location, to include allowance of eligibility in the Essential Air Service Program, and removal of the Cabotage Restrictions created under the U.S. Merchant Marine Act of 1920; and to pursue all available options to secure sustainable air service to critical locations in need of increased access to transportation networks and sustainable economic viability," the resolution continued.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act, limits the availability of foreign-flagged air carriers to provide air transportation to distant locations in need of air services. Citing the decline in service provided by U.S.-flagged air carriers, the resolution calls for the "opening competition" of air transportation since it sees "no substantial risk to the U.S. air service industry."

The MIF also recognized that climate change affects Micronesian islands more prominently, and has agreed that there is a need to "rapidly build resilience" against it.

"…Climate change is a daily reality as evidenced by devastations already inflicted by climate change impacts at current levels of warming, including intensifying extreme weather events, sea level rise, and ocean acidification," the resolution stated.

The fifth resolution the MIF passed was to recognize that Micronesia as a region has a "vital role" to play, facilitate, and enhance further actions critical to staying within the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit as set under the Paris Agreement accord within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC.

The UNFCC deals with greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation, adaption, and finance beginning in 2020 that came into effect on Nov. 4, 2016.

The Paris Agreement aims to collectively limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius in response to climate change. As of November 2017, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement while 172 have become party to it.

MIF letters to Guam Legislature, FAA, USDA

The MIF during their three-day forum were able to come up with three letters to address issues pertaining to Micronesia.

MIF issued a letter to the Guam Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz as they proposed a bill, Bill 257-34, which imposes taxes on transshipment of fuel coming through Guam. The taxes would have a "direct and deep impact" on the economies of Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, and Tinian and Rota of the CNMI as shipments of fuel first go through Guam before reaching the other islands.

"…Our communities share many of the same challenges in the Micronesian region. Further, history will show that when faced with obstacles, we strive to work together with the goal of reaching a solution that is beneficial, or not harmful, to any of our jurisdictions. As such if this bill were to pass, the negative effects would be detrimental," the letter stated.

The MIF in a letter addressed to the Airports Division Director for the Federal Aviation Administration, Western Pacific Region Mark McClardy requests that the agency continues the Airport Improvement Program grants for the entire Micronesian region.

"When our airports become unsafe due to nonviable navigational aids, inoperable lighting, or faded marking, airlines are faced with the difficult reality of suspending or cancelling flights to our small island jurisdictions," the letter stated, adding that the suspensions and especially the cancellations of flights heavily affected the economy of the region since it depends mostly on tourism.

A MIF letter addressed to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny M. Perdue requested that a Micronesian Biosecurity Initiative be established with the director stationed on Guam.

The initiative seeks to pursue collaborative efforts with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, and its partners in the Pacific Region. The initiative has the goal of protecting participating countries and territories from the introduction of invasive species, or "high-risk plant pests," by establishing a perimeter.

"The initiative would seek to harmonize and strengthen the on-going regional development of offshore pest detection, control and exclusion activities, and regulatory frameworks for the benefits of all countries and territories in the region," the letter stated.

"We, the Presidents and Governors of the forum, fully support the establishment of this initiative as an essential element whereas APHIS PPQ expertise would greatly enhance regional harmonization, increase the capacity building goals of APHIS in the protection of US interests, and locate leadership on Guam, which is the transportation hub of the region," it continued.

MAY

From Page 1

to continue to entice tourists to participate in the festivities.

The opening night of Taste of the Marianas will be this Saturday, May 5. In recognition of *Cinco de Mayo,* MVA has decided to include a taco-eating contest. Contestant will be required to devour an entire plate of tacos and wash it all down with a shot of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage.

MVA has also prepared a fried chicken-eating contest during the Taste of the Marianas.

According to Concepcion, MVA has gone as far as bringing in an international contestant from Japan to partake in the contest. Additional information on the competition is yet to be announced.

Aside from the added activities, the community can expect some of the most delicious local foods and traditional performances during the Taste of the Marianas.

In celebration of Tourism Month, the community can also expect a roadside waving on May 18, a MY WAVE Club Island Tour on May 25, a Spirit Instagram Competition, a Graphic Design Contest, and Radio Tourism Trivia all throughout the month of May.

COUPLE

From Page 2

filed with the USCIS an I-485 application for adjustment of status to a permanent resident based on her marriage to Hale.

On Aug. 3, 2017, the couple filed the lawsuit against the DHS and USCIS officials.

Aside from Kelley, the petitioners are suing Center Director for the USCIS National Benefits Center Robert M. Cowan, USCIS District Director for District 26 David Gulick, USCIS acting director James McCamant, and U.S. Attorney General Jefferson Sessions.

Mok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to direct the USCIS to issue a decision on the couple's pending I-130 petition and I-485 application.

In the couple's motion for summary judgment filed last Monday, Mok said the fact that couple's I-130 petition was approved last Dec. 18 does not absolve the USCIS of the fact that the I-485 application is still inexplicably pending.

Mok said the 33-month delay at issue is inherently unreasonable and is far outside the normal processing time of the USCIS.

Mok noted that according to the USCIS' own processing guidelines, the estimated time range for processing of an I-485 application by the Guam office is 9.5 months to 21 months from the time of an I-485 application is filed.

The lawyers pointed out that the I-485 application at issue is made by an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, which Congress has already stated is an immigration priority and thus should be on the low end of listed time range.

"It is also highly unreasonable for the USCIS to conduct an adjustment of status interview on June 6, 2016 then wait almost two years without making any decision whatsoever," the lawyer said.

By doing so, Mok said, the USCIS has placed the couple in administrative "limbo" that has caused them unnecessary anxiety and stress.

HOUSE

From Page 1

case of disaster or emergency towards various programs of Tinian and Rota.

The House rejected Senate amendments with a vote of 16-2. Reps. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) and Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) both voted against rejecting the Senate amendments.

"There were amendments that would really provide funding to programs we have on Tinian," said Aldan in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*. The Senate included in their amendments an appropriation of $25,000 from the House proposal to set aside $3 million emergency funding to the Tinian Department of Public Safety operations and their police academy, which urged Aldan to vote for its passage.

In an interview, the bill's author Demapan did not specifically point out which Senate amendments were not to their liking, but he did say that some proposed Senate amendments have already been addressed by a previous public law.

"…They need some clarification on those particular appropriations," he said. "…[The Senate] made significant changes to the House version, particularly to the land compensation payments and to the reserve funds appropriation. Because that is very significant we fell that it is best addressed in conference committee," he continued.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) appointed Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) as chair for the House conferees and Reps. Blas "BJ" Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) and Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) as members.

Angel Demapan on the House floor yesterday stated his concern for yet again delaying the $7-million appropriation to the Judiciary for their mold mediation and new air-conditioning units procurement.

"…We had hope to see swift movement on the legislation so the Judiciary could go back to normal operations but more so for our Commonwealth people to have access to judicial services. The fact that this [legislation] goes to conference committee will set it back some time, but we hope both conferees from the House and Senate will reach a resolution sooner than later," he said.

The Guma Hustisia, which houses majority of the judicial branch's courts and services, fell victim to a plaguing mold problem due to the humidity of the climate on the islands. Coupled with the failing air-conditioning units of the building, the mold problem reached the extent of being a health hazard, thus forcing the Guma Hustisia to close.

Man assaulted by girlfriend with metal pipe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An argument over Facebook messages led to domestic violence and caused a man to land in the hospital due to injuries after his girlfriend allegedly attacked him with a metal pipe at an apartment in Chalan Kanoa last Sunday.

Amber Francine Castro Garrido, 27, a hotel employee, was arrested for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

The boyfriend was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room for an open wound on the left inner part of his thumb.

At yesterday afternoon's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed the temporary release of Garrido to a third party custodian upon posting a $5,000 unsecured or appearance bond.

Preliminary hearing will be on May 7 at 1:30pm.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Garrido. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

According to police detective Leopoldo Theodore Mejia Duenas Jr. in his report, last Sunday at 12:03pm, Department of Public Safety dispatch sent units to a reported stabbing incident at an apartment on Donicio Avenue in Chalan Kanoa.

Duenas said when a police officer responded to the apartment, he observed medics were wrapping the left thumb of the victim, who was then transported to CHC.

Duenas said the officer learned that Garrido approached his boyfriend, who was eating in the kitchen/dining table, and confronted him about Facebook messages between him and his former girlfriend.

Garrido allegedly shouted at his boyfriend why he deleted the messages. She then threw his cell phone to the floor, causing the screen to crack.

Garrido went to the living room, grabbed a metal pipe, and repeatedly hit her boyfriend with it.

The boyfriend observed that a small chunk of his skin from the thumb fell to the floor.

As the boyfriend was sitting down and applying pressure to his thumb to stop the bleeding, Garrido allegedly took a plate of fried rice and threw the rice to his face.

She also threw two cartons containing 20 raw eggs at her boyfriend.

McDonald's donates $3K to 2018 MMAC

McDonald's Saipan and Guam donated $3,000 to the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer yesterday.

McDonald's has shown endless support toward various community events and MMAC is no exception.

According to McDonald's Middle Road manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's is always happy to give back to the community by supporting events such as the MMAC.

Ayuyu said that McDonald's continues to support events like the MMAC in hopes that their act of support will result in a ripple effect so other businesses can follow suit and give back to the community through donations as well.

Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan Lizama Babauta said he is extremely grateful for the continuous support that MMAC receives from McDonald's and the Ayuyu family.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is set for May 11 and will be held at the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School field from 5:30pm to 5:30am. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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Senate confirms Tudela to NMC Board of Regents

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed a former principal of Saipan Southern High School as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Jesus "Jesse" M. Tudela was unanimously confirmed by the Senate during their session last Friday.

Tudela, who is the current director of hospital services at the Commonwealth Health Center since 2013, also served as a former teacher, vice principal, and principal of Saipan Southern High School.

In an interview, Tudela said though he still remains unaware of the several problems the college faces, he said he would look into those issues and do his "due diligence on what is happening as much as a board regent can do."

Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) recommended during Tudela's public hearing that both NMC and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute work together. According to Tudela the different entities, one being affiliated with the public sector and the other with the private sector, is worth being looked into.

"As we speak I know NMTI is a private entity while NMC is a public entity—there are two different entities, there is a distinction," he said, adding that there might be a possible clash of authority over programs if they were to work together. Despite the comment, Tudela said he would still look into the possibility.

Despite having prior teaching and managerial positions in a school, Tudela also has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Hawaii-Manoa and a master's degree in education in international studies from the Framingham State College in Massachusetts. Tudela is also currently in the process of completing his masters in health administration from Ohio University.

Hopwood NJHS inducts 21 new members

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The National Junior Honour Society of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School inducted a batch of 21 students last Saturday.

Over the weekend, the NJHS club welcomed 21 new members into the prestigious academic club. The new batch of honor students was inducted at the Grandvrio Hotel Saipan.

According to NJHS club president Janalene Imperial, to become a member of the NJHS is truly an honour for many students in middle school as well as in high school.

The requirements to get into the NJHS are based on a student's academics, their personality, and their passion to help the community.

"It is based on your grades. You can not have a 'C' honour and your reading and your math needs to be at level or higher," she said.

"When you get into NJHS, it's an amazing feeling because, again, it is one of the most prestigious clubs to be in. It makes you feel like 'oh wow, I'm part of something so special and not everyone can get into this' so it's nice," she added.

Imperial said that she is proud to welcome the next batch of inductees before she is promoted to high school where she will also join the National Honour Society.

According to Rizalina Liwag, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School principal, she and the staff of Hopwood are very proud of the newly inducted students. "They know that we have expectations of them, so we wish that they will continue to excel not just in their academics but also…in the skills they need to become college and career ready," she said.

Liwag's advice for the newly inducted students is for them to never lose sight of the responsibilities they now must uphold as members of NJHS.

"My message to the new members is for them to really be responsible and embrace the five pillars of the organization [scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship] and contribute to the society and to the nation," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 21 newly inducted National Junior Honor Society members pose for a photo last Saturday at the Grandvrio Hotel Saipan.

The students inducted last Saturday were Ma. Yvonne Abustan, Anthony John Bergnacia, Patricia Ann Castillon, Esperanza Castro, Keghani Chaparian, Rownel Jody Coloma, Nina Nicole David, Ailynn Galvan, Naveen Lucenara, Lizzie Joy Manabat, Jane Nicole Mozunder, Edgardo Palma Jr., Kina Neisuupi Rangamar, Casandra Bhel Roque, Ethan James Sablan, Bonnie Mar Sagana, Jzi Caniel Santomin, Jan Mikaela Tanate, Diana Rose Tupas, Nicole Ann Villgomez, and Pauline Shaine Viray.

NMC Career Fair set for this Friday

Community members and students interested in exploring employment opportunities are encouraged to participate at Northern Marianas College's annual Career Fair this Friday, May 4, 2018.

The event will be held at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom from 9am to 12pm. The fair is free and open to the public.

The Northern Marianas College Career Fair provides students, graduates, and interested community members the opportunity to connect with the various businesses in the private and public sectors on island. Participants will not only be exposed to a broad range of employers, but it will also give an opportunity to network and build business relationships.

More than 50 companies confirmed their participation at the annual Career Fair and will be looking to hire. These companies include Ace Professional Corporation, Asia Pacific Hotel Incorporated, Century Tours Incorporated, Cha, Civil Service Commission-Office of Personnel Management, CNMI Public School System, CNMI Scholarship Office, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, DCCA- Division of Youth Services, Delta Management Corporation, Department of Fire & EMS, Department of Public Lands, DFS Saipan, DHS US Customs and Border Protection, DOL-Workforce Investment Agency Division, Ete Cafe, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, G4S, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Other participants include IHOP Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, Joeten Enterprises Incorporated, Joeten Motor Company, Kalayaan Incorporated, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, LSG Sky Chefs, Marianas Aviation Services, Marianas Medical Center, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Marianas Variety, Marianas Visiting Nurses, Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control Incorporated, Northern Marianas College Human Resources, Office of Personnel Management, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Rim Land Development, Pacific Trading Company, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Incorporated, Paradise Dental Spa, POI Aviation, PSG Professional Corporation, Quality Water Laboratory, Saipan Cares for Animals, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program (SHEFA), Sorensen Media Group, and Triple J Saipan Incorporated.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
More than 50 employees will be at NMC's annual Career Fair this Friday, May 4, 2018. The event will be held from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom. For more information visit www.marianas.edu.

Those who plan on attending the Career Fair are encouraged to dress appropriately as if they would for an interview and come prepared with updated copies of their resumes. Additional tips and recommendations are also listed on NMC's website.

Throughout this week NMC's Career coordinator Neda Deleon Guerrero is also offering one-to-one sessions for those interested in improving their resumes or practicing job interview techniques. Schedule an appointment by calling 237-6759 or emailing Neda at neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu.

For more information visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Local business promotes indigenous culture

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young entrepreneur Shayne Villanueva takes pride in the island's indigenous culture and has used that pride to inspire his business, Roil Soil Clothing.

There are numerous local clothing shops on Saipan today, but Villanueva believes that what sets him apart from the rest is the fact that his clothing line features local artists like Peter Aldan. Through featuring local artists, Roil Soil Clothing can capture the essence of the island's indigenous culture.

During the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting last April 24 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Villanueva introduced and explained the meaning of Roil Soil Clothing and its mission.

According to Villanueva, "Roil" is pronounced "Royal" and stands for "honoring the past," and "Soil" represents "our land, people and history."

"We represent all races and all lineages. We erase lines of separation and we promote connecting people through music, clothing, marketing and other services," he said.

Roil Soil Clothing is a brand sold at Legends clothing shop. Like Legends clothing, Roil Soil is a boutique brand and according to Villanueva, he wants to keep it that way so that the merchandise remains high quality and unique.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
The Roil Soil Clothing stall at the recent Flame Tree Arts Festival at Civic Center in Susupe.

Roil Soil Clothing also partners with different groups and organizations to promote their groups by creating merchandise or murals for them, and also to perform charity work.

""We want to promote more events in the CNMI and continue to help our local charities," he said.

One of their upcoming events is the Danny Cho Show with Jay Sanchez and Gerard Van Gils set for May 6 from 5pm to 7pm at Naked Fish Bar and Grill in Susupe.

Roil Soil started in 2015 as a clothing company representing the CNMI at the Pacific Islanders Festival in San Diego, California.

"Now we also develop concepts for companies and bring them to life with local artists. We develop products and markets to grow with our clients," Villanueva said.

Today, Roil Soil Clothing has expanded to marketing, business development, product development, clientele engagement, social media development, charity engagement, and more.

For more information visit www.roilsoil.bigcartel.com, www.instagram.com/roilsoilclothing, www.facebook.com/roilsoilclothing or contact Shayne Villanueva at 785-4269 or at roilsoilclothing@gmail.com.

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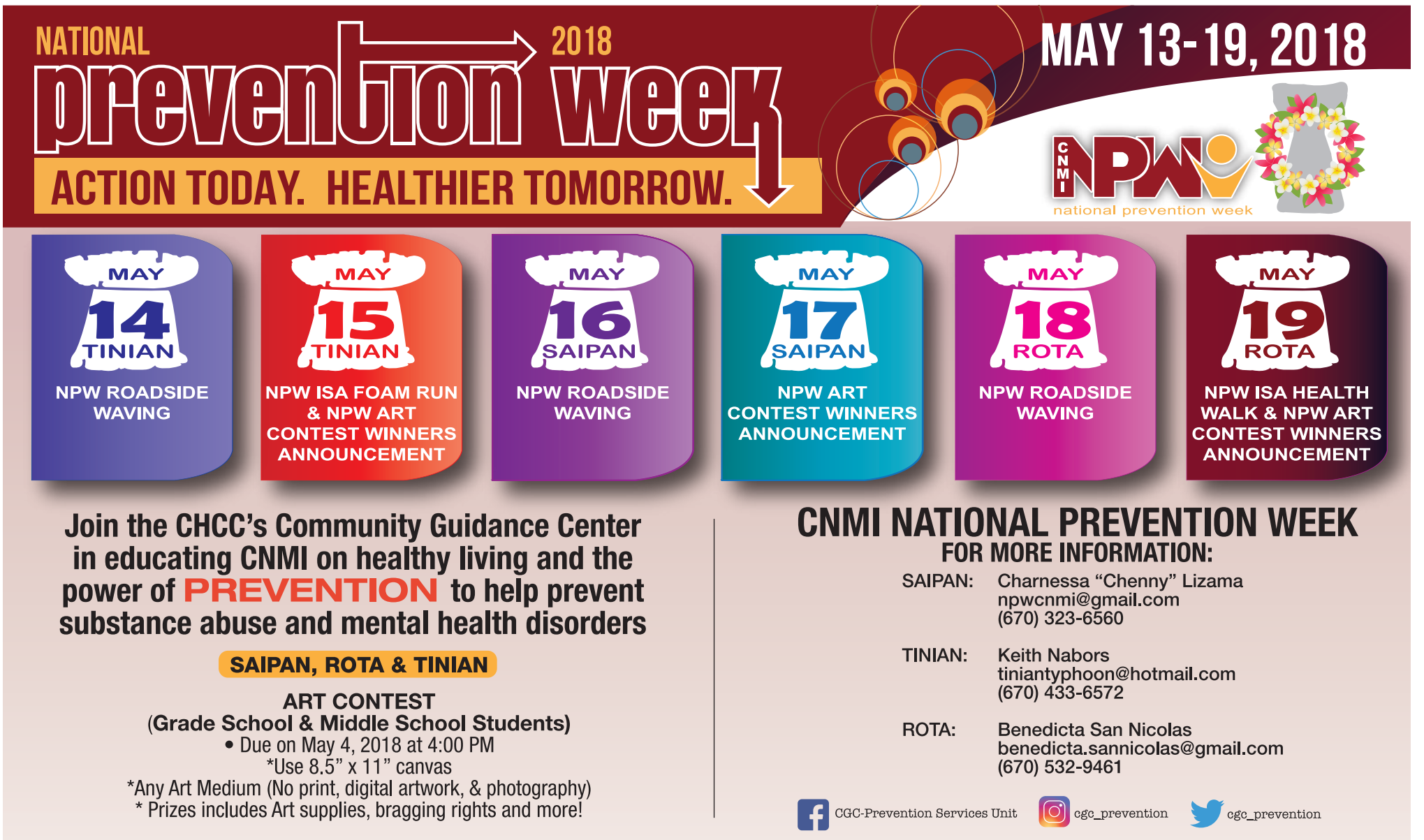
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Bridge Capital 8th Annual Art competition

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Bridge Capital LLC awards Nick Klewei $2,500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Myla Capilitan $1,500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Kim Ju Eun $500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Debbie Winkfield $1,500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Gregorio Baenis Jr. $1,000 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Ruth Park $1,500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Beatrix Doyle $1,000 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Nhorleen Bhitco $1,000 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards a representative of Hervin Jacinto $1,000 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Ireneo David $1,500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Jesus Sulla Jr. $500 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Sora Baidya $750 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

Bridge Capital awards Tricia Salcedo $1,000 during the award ceremony of Bridge Capital's 8th Annual Art Competition last Saturday.

DCCA: There's still a long ways to go

WELCOME TO THE
37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival
Live Performances • Artworks • Cultural Demonstrations • And so much more!

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Man Antigu dancers perform a traditional Chamorro dance during the final day of the Flame Tree Arts Festival last Sunday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs pulled through with their promise to bring back the grandeur of the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival but improvements are still well on the way.

The DCCA pulled out all the stops to make the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival as great as they possibly could. The over $80,000 production was nothing short of extravagant with live video from start to finish for all four days, over 80 booths, and participation of artists from Saipan, Tinian, Guam, and more.

Even though the festival was the largest Flame Tree Arts Festival seen in a long while, DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter has plans for further improvement.

"We still have a ways to go…this was wonderful and this was a step in the right direction but like I said, we have already been talking about major changes to next year's festival…there's much more we want to do," he said.

The biggest improvement DCCA is working on for next year's Flame Tree Arts Festival is working on securing permanent festival grounds.

"What we really need is a permanent festival site…so we don't need to keep taking in and out all these logistical stuff like the stages and tents because it costs a fortune and it all comes down in a couple of days," he said.

Aside from cutting down on costs, permanent festival grounds can open up doors for more festivals in the CNMI both for artists to showcase their work and as a tourist destination.

Hunter said he has already started scouting possible areas to establish permanent festival grounds but he has his eye on the Civic Center.

"We want a site that is by the beach because of the canoes…so right off the bat this [Civic Center] seems like a good site. The design of it…it seems kind of perfect here…it's a natural first choice," he said.

When asked if it's possible to take Civic Center and make it a permanent festival site, Hunter said that anything is possible.

"But we've got to talk to Parks and Recs [Recreation], Department of Public Lands, and all the people who have investments here [Civic Center] but I think it is time…" he said.

Hunter said it is the perfect time to establish a permanent festival site due to the bill that was recently passed to exempt local artists from paying taxes.

"We just had this tax incentive bill for artists so it would be great to have permanent booths along here where they can go and work and people can stop by…tourists and residents alike," he said.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival ended on Sunday and gathered over 1,000 community members every night for the past four nights.

DPL Department of Public Lands

SSFM CNMI, LLC
Project Managers • Planners • Engineers
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has retained SSFM CNMI along with their sub-consultant, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests, the needs of government agencies, and groups representing commercial interests.

The first set of public hearings for this project occurred during the week of September 18 to September 21, 2017. The second set of public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, May 7, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, May 8, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
3) Municipality of Saipan - 1
   a. Date – Wednesday, May 9, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Hopwood Middle School Cafeteria
4) Municipality of Saipan - 2
   a. Date – Thursday, May 10, 2018
   b. Time – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
   c. Location – Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria
5) Municipality of Saipan - 3
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
   c. Location – Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall, Garapan
6) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Carolinian Utt, Garapan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may fill out an online stakeholder survey form or view the current draft available on DPL's website at http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/. You may also email your comments directly to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from this second round of public hearings will be compiled for incorporation into the final draft of the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings and provide comment.

There will be a final Public Involvement Program Meeting to present the final draft of the updated public land use plan. The tentative timeframe is mid-July 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
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COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Personnel Affairs Committee will be holding a Special meeting on Friday, May 4, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

1. Preliminary Matter:
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
2. Public Comment(s)
3. Grievance
4. Executive Session (Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912(a)(3))
5. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:	**May 15, 2018**
Time:	**3:00 p.m.**
Submit sealed proposals to:	Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

A peaceful day in Korea. Give Trump some credit.

In a stunning diplomatic development, the leaders of North and South Korea met Friday at the demilitarized zone dividing their warring countries. They smiled, shook hands on both sides of the border and sat down for an engaging chat. Could this be the beginning of the end to the Cold War-era conflict that, on its worst days, raises the threat of nuclear war?

Get this: The day's best analysis was also the simplest, tweeted by President Donald Trump, who wasn't there at Panmunjom but played a key role in the breakthrough: "Good things are happening, but only time will tell!"

Yes, patience and skepticism are required. North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, comes from wily stock. His father and grandfather ran their country, and ran it into the ground, as a hermetically sealed kingdom. The goal was regime preservation at all costs. Their strategy was to keep North Korea isolated, convince impoverished citizens they were under imminent threat of attack by the evil United States, and then arm themselves to the teeth to keep the world at bay.

Through the decades North Korea also engaged in talks to end its hostile posture, but always the Kims would renege. North Korea is so poor it can barely feed its people, yet the leadership had such a grip on the populace there was never pressure to open up and perhaps trade nukes for economic aid. So it was for the grandfather, Kim Il Sung, and the son, Kim Jong Il.

But what about the grandson and current leader? Kim Jong Un is the most dangerous of the bunch, having overseen North Korea's final push to develop nuclear weapons that can fit onto ballistic missiles. Those warheads now appear capable of reaching parts of the U.S. mainland, the Midwest included. Perhaps soon all of the United States will be in range.

Trump faced up to the threat in a way his predecessors in office did not: He made it clear to Kim that there is a genuine red line that cannot be crossed: menacing the U.S. with nukes. Remember the verbal taunts and threats from last year. "Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime," Trump said, mocking Kim at the United Nations. At the U.N. he said that!

And now … the promise of peace talks. North and South Korea are embracing each other. Kim is set to meet Trump within a month or two. It would be the first meeting of a North Korean leader and sitting U.S. president. On the table would be a formal end to the Korean War and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

This is where it gets tricky. The U.S. wants North Korea to end its nuclear program before receiving economic aid in exchange. It's possible Kim thinks he's put North Korea in its best-ever negotiating position and is willing to strike a deal. Or it's possible he'll try to play the U.S. for whatever concessions he can obtain but isn't serious about abandoning his arsenal.

A third possibility: Trump's tough talk has gotten in Kim's head, while new sanctions have bitten hard. Trump thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday, so maybe the Chinese also are working hard to rein in North Korea. Maybe Kim has embraced detente to the extent that he and Trump end up with shares of a Nobel Peace Prize. Wherever this pro-

See KOREA on Next Page

Dichu sahyan kuttura

Gi alacha, huli`e siha presentasion gi television pot kutturan Chamorro. Mauleg na intension. Lau finu` lagu (Eñglis) manasetbe ti Chamorro.

Ti umaya i intension i programa yan i liñguahe. Mas kulan finanague gi otru tautau ke Chamorro. Pa`gu yangin para Chamoru ni titumuñgu` liñguahiña pues bien felis.

I liñguahita i sahyan kuttura-ta ni sumimientu haf` sustansian natibu. Taya` otru sahyan ni siña kumone` hit halum gi apusientun kuttara-ta ke liñguahita. Yangin asolas `nai para una` setbe fotmat pues seguru na humanau i karetan guaka sin i toru!

Dos Kanai: Ni achog para tafan macho`chu` siempre talagnos todu i dos kanaita para tachogue mauleg checho`ta. Yangin un` kanai una setbe pues seguru na chatcho`gue hau gi haf` asunto-mu.

Taya` minapotña matugi` i programa taimanu `nai ma-intended gi finu` Chamorro. `An un` komprende i asuntu pues libianu un` tugi` gi fino`mu mismu. Siña tinaka` tiempu pot gai fotmalidat mañge`, lau siempre un` fattu gi chimu`. Na ti pot famaguon Chamorro i ma-intended na programa?

I para un` lagse` manaitai yan mañge` gi finu` Chamorro debi diariu un` chogue. Cha`mu hinahalañg sa` siempre un` komple. Sineyu` hau lokue` fumana`gue famaguon-mu ni liñguahen niha. Propiu umatuñgu` haf` kutturan natibu ni sinisteteni ni liñguahe. I liñguahita i fitme yan ma`lag na achon ma-abiban kuttura yan tradision.

Gi finu` i kuentos, eyag ma`udai halum gi mina` tres na napu sa` siempre un` fattu gi inai. Siña` ha` sulun hau gi finenina lau siempre un` felis dispues.

Destrosiu: I ina`ayudan unu yan todu fitme na patte gi pisun kuttura-ta. Mas este masimientu gi kutturan relihion-ta Katoliku. Naturat na yine`ase` yan listu na ausiliu para haye na prohimu-ta numesessita ma-ayuda.

Lau `an in` atan i modun edukasion gaige sentru gi finana`gue i para unna` suffisienten maisa hau. Gi karera, hita mismu tuma`lun umaregla haf` dichu sensian kilisyanu. Poresu na esta pa`gu gaige ha` gi sensian natibu listu man-ayuda gi prohimuña. Namagof!

Ginefli`e`: I natibu debi u eyag gumofli`e maisague` yan todu sustansiaña. Ginen este na pisu `nai libianu ta establese mas fitme na sensian kooperasion para ta atbansa, adelanta yan defende haf` kuttura yan tradision-ta. Likidu i natibu gi kutturaña. Maila` ta abiba gi hilu` inagofli`e. Para mona mas libianu ta petsige todu diniseha-ta pot unu yan todu.

Relihion: Relihion Katoliku pumatte petmanente gi kutturan natibu gi bandan hineñge desde tiempun Español. Ginen este na pisu `nai umeyag i natibu sustansian justisia. Estague` fumañagu metgot na sensian respetu gi entalu` todu. Felis i kareran natibu piot `nai masimientu sensian inagofli`e, respetu yan inafamauleg.

Pot Chaleg: Mapua boten niha i dos prohimu gi tasin Puntan Diablu. Duru gi halum loka` lañgat makeli`e manu `nai gaige i tanu`.

Ume`esalau i unu, "Pare, kau un`lili`e guenau maletan kumairemu?" Inesalague tatte: "Atan oriyamu na man-loka` palun halu`u!" Mamatkilu.

`Nai mattu i dos halum gi tanu` ma-usune mamokat para i señgsoñg. Gi karera kinepbla haf` na ayu mattu gi hinassoña. Ilegña na tiha hassu. Kase pot linihaña na kontodu maleta malagnos gi sikosña. Lau lokue` `an esta kontra manloka` palun halu`u oriyamu haye siña klaru hinassoña gi halum piligru.

Kantida: Animu inekuñgog haf` homlu na neñkanu`, eksisiu yan gimen para hita. Tat ti tumuñgu` este na asuntu. Lau megai umu`upus pot yata mañochu mañge` na boka.

Ti i klase dañosu soluke "kantida" ni tapepega halum gi pachot-ta. Megai besis `nai ta gulusune mas ke otdinariu na kantida, ta`lu pot yata mañochu.

I hinemlo`mu gaige gi dos patman kanaina. Ti klase soluke kantida ni un` kakanu` diariu. Utut papa` gi regulat na kantida ya un` sede lokue` estomagu-mu chumogue fuñgsioña. Gigon un` upus pues ti kabales hana mamtu` kinano`mu. Tutuhun chenot.

Kuttura: I modun linala`ta rinidonduye ni preparasion neñkanu`. Lokue` atan sa` lamegai listan selebrasion `nai sumaunau neñkanu`: matatpañge, primet komuñion, konfitmasion, umasagua, nobenan patron, matai, yan todu klasen kompliaños.

Kada kumepara sikosta ta baba ta`lu sa` mattu otru okasion sentada. Ta fañochu ya ta gosa sentadan familia regulatmente. Cha`mu gulususune mas ke naturat!

■■■

Chebut: Mina` tasosoyu` inadahe gi kantidan neñkanu` pot megai gi tautau-ta man-chebut. Kumeke ileghu na esta machuchuda` i sentura ya guaha `nai chathinaguñg i tautau. Buente ti inestotba lau guahu gi un` banda dispues umayudadaye humaguñg. Diberas!

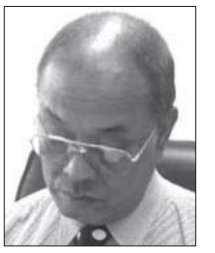
■■■

Pinadese: Gi tatten respetau na felisitasion, haf` mohon gaige gi matan ennau na prohimu i fumuñut pinadesisiña diariu? Un` asuntu ni debi ta fan siña tumaitai sin konbetsasion! Guiya este nesessidat lamayot patte gi tautau-ta.

Minesñgun: Guaha na oga`an `nai hu fagcha`e tettin uchan ni inakompañia freskun mañglu` ginen haya. He ekuñgog ñaihon i bailan uchan gi hilu` sin yan hagun troñku siha gi oriya ni sige man-palapa. Tutuhun bonitu na ha`ane!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*



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Teacher strikes might hurt Republicans this time

By STEPHEN MIHM
Bloomberg View

Stephen Mihm, an associate professor of history at the University of Georgia, is a contributor to Bloomberg View.

It has been a very long time since the U.S. has seen a wave of teacher strikes. But in the past few months, teachers have walked off the job in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and now Colorado and Arizona.

The outbreak of labor activism has caught many people by surprise, especially Republicans. For decades, the party has successfully chipped away at the power of unions, including even all-powerful public-sector unions. And yet, with the possible exception of Colorado, these strikes have broken out in red states. Is that a sign of something?

To understand what may be happening – and why it may spell trouble for the political right – it's necessary to go back in time to another moment in history when teachers went on strike.

Teachers generally didn't go on strike for much of the 20th century. Even in the labor-friendly New Deal, teacher unions struggled to gain a foothold. The Wagner Act, passed in 1935, conferred collective-bargaining rights on private workers, but withheld them from public-sector workers.

Nonetheless as unions became entrenched in the postwar United States, the idea that public-sector employees like teachers should also have a right to organize became more palatable. In 1959, Wisconsin, long a leader in progressive legislation, became the first state to pass a law granting public employees the right to strike. Other states followed suit: 22 in all by 1970.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, teachers who acquired collective-bargaining rights went on strike at a remarkable rate. These walkouts tended to erupt in bastions of liberalism. New York City, for example, witnessed one of the first major strikes in the early 1960s, when labor organizers Albert Shanker and David Selden managed to unify teachers' unions into a formidable, disciplined force.

Throughout the 1960s, teachers who went on strike simultaneously embraced many of the social movements of the era, particularly the civil rights movement. National teachers' unions endorsed Brown v. Board of Education, and over the course of the decade, they became increasingly identified with various liberal causes.

At first this posed no dangers for the unions. Though it may be hard to imagine now, the idea that public-sector unions should exist, and could in fact play a positive role in society, was conventional wisdom among much of the electorate at this time. In Pennsylvania, for example, the historian Jon Shelton has traced how a Republican governor convened a commission in 1968 – headed by a retired executive from Alcoa, no less – that ultimately recommended that public-sector employees, including teachers, be given collective-bargaining rights.

In 1970, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a far-reaching law that did just that, and even gave public employees limited rights to strike. All of this reflected a belief, however naïve, that teachers and state authorities could meet as equals at the bargaining table. Unions, in this formulation, would serve as a counterweight to the power of government. The head of the Pittsburgh teachers' union argued that the law had turned Pennsylvania into "one of the most progressive states in the nation."

Nonetheless, by 1970, the liberal-labor coalition was already fraying, as growing numbers of white working-class voters began to express unease about the drift of the country. The era's riots, rising crime and, eventually, stagflation and deindustrialization left many Americans questioning the core tenets of liberalism.

In the 1970s, a number of high-profile teachers' strikes decisively shifted public opinion against unions. In New York City, the image of militant teachers going on strike precisely as the city struggled with bankruptcy helped cement a growing perception that public-sector unions operated against the public interest. Bitter strikes in other big cities – Newark, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis – repelled many moderate voters.

In 1975, teachers in Pittsburgh went on highly visible strike – one of a staggering 478 strikes of public-sector workers that took place that year in the U.S. Though they initially enjoyed popular support, this evaporated by the time the teachers went back to work. As Shelton has written, the strike "significantly widened the gap between what many believed were the interests of labor unions and the interest of the public."

The image of teachers going on strike – and children home from school for months at a time – seemed to reflect a larger breakdown in what was sometimes called "law and order," and in Pittsburgh, to say nothing of other cities, teachers found themselves pilloried for allegedly contributing to a collapse of social norms. The strikes helped fuel a growing conservative backlash nationwide.

In Pennsylvania, for example, a Democratic governor convened another commission to re-evaluate public-sector unions. This time, though, the people testifying spoke the language of "right to work." As the head of Philadelphia's Chamber of Commerce testified: "The disasters visited upon community after community by striking public employees is eating away at the very fabric of society…." The tide was turning.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan swept to victory, and launched a conservative counter-revolution that is now in its fourth decade. Reagan dealt a formidable blow to public-sector unions after he fired striking air traffic controllers in 1981. In the ensuing years in many states, Republicans – and many centrist Democrats – embraced the idea of cutting taxes, slashing government spending and attacking unions, public and private.

Which brings us to now. The recent teacher strikes are happening in places very far removed from the left-leaning cities of the 1960s and 1970s, and far removed from states like California and New York, where public-sector unions wield considerable power and guard their benefits.

For the most part, the walkouts are happening in places where the mantra of cutting taxes and services – and slashing spending on schools – has reached absurd levels. In Oklahoma, for example, schools have been closed intermittently, not because teachers have been on strike, but because the funding isn't there to keep them open.

More curious still, these strikes aren't necessarily being orchestrated by the teachers' unions in those states. In some cases, they're happening outside of union leadership whatsoever. And even more surprising, the strikers have significant public support, largely because the teacher demands aren't simply about higher salaries; they're about increased funding for education generally.

All of this is significant. The latest teacher strikes aren't symptoms of a decadent, declining brand of liberalism. They're a primal scream of populations that are becoming increasingly disenchanted with the pieties and policies of politicians intent on cutting public services down to nothing.

And that should scare Republicans, who run the risk, much like the liberals of old, of being increasingly viewed as holding extreme, even radical views that run contrary to the public interest.

KOREA

From Page 10

ceeds, give Trump credit for his role in making Friday possible.

The long list of future scenarios also includes a return to confrontation. What we know for sure: Only the complete scuttling of the North's nuclear and ballistic missile capacities, including a regimen of international inspections, will defang this dangerous adversary.

As Trump said, time will tell.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What the hell's going on with KCHC, governor?

From what I have read the devil is in the details and he is raising a lot of hell with the Kagman Community Health Center closure and there is no end in sight. Even the Senate is literally asking "what the hell it going on?" and it's all because one person had a great idea to make the clinic independent and executed it but the powers-that-be didn't like them doing it on their own—a personality conflict.

Well, it's done now so the best thing for all involved is to get on with the program and stop finding reasons to hold up progress. I am writing this because the employees at KCHC are literally begging for help so they can go back to work and there are literally thousands of patients who depend on the clinic for its services my wife and myself included.

It seems like they are working to find more problems and reasons to close the clinic than solutions to keep it open. It has even become a political football with the Senate rightfully meeting to see what can be done even though they are virtually powerless unless it's about changing or making a law. The closure is obviously more than about the transfer of land, which is a simple internal CNMI issue unrelated to the grant and the CHCC resources are also an internal issue that should have been worked out internally. It has even become a "who-done it?" as the KCHC is now closed and the locks were even changed by who—was it to keep CHCC from taking resources or was it to keep KCHC employees out. In either case it is really a job for the governor not the Senate. The governor can even issue an "Emergency Directive for the Land Use" and even mediate the transfer of resources putting an end to the closure of the clinic "temporarily" until a permanent solution can be found. This was a simple "transfer of power and resources" that all the powers-that-be say was a great idea but strangely enough the clinic is now closed servicing no one anymore.

The sad and ugly thing is the employees and patients are the only ones suffering and are literally victims now. To make it worse, people don't even know who to be upset at for the closure of the clinic but it seems to be driven by CHCC and not the clinic or the grant provider.

It was even brought out in the Senate that there was already a "personality conflicts" between KCHC and CHCC that has turned into a deadly virus for the center figuratively. Yes, employees and patients could really be victims because of a personality conflict(s) instead of real reasons that violate the grant or the law or pose real services challenges for the clinic. If ever there was a time for the governor to step in and resolve what has become an emergency political issue that is adversely affecting healthcare it is now with the KCHC closing. I was told the governor is off-island but there is nothing to keep him from communicating with the acting governor to fix the problem which is the main reason why we have the transfer of the governor's power when he's off-island for daily operations and real emergencies like this and not just for the acting governor to sign proclamations. The administration's theme in the last election was all about "solutions" and this is a true emergency needing a real solution for the many patients and employees—we all need your help now governor!

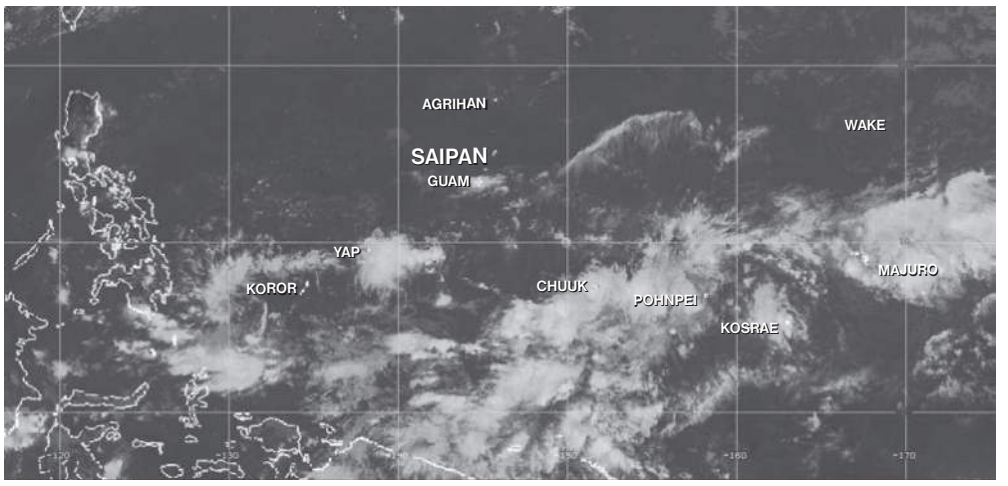
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:57 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Visible satellite imagery from Monday afternoon showed an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of 150E and just north of 10N. This area generated an outflow boundary which moves westward during the night. This boundary has been producing some showers and thunderstorms along its trek. Radar showed this area approaching all morning and lightning detectors indicated brief thunderstorm activity. The area of activity is fairly thin so just expect any effects of it to last only a brief time. It also is moving mainly across Guam and Guam coastal waters and expect scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms until around noon time. Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will remain relatively dry with just partly cloudy skies and isolated showers expected today. For the remainder of the forecast, a quiet weather pattern is expected across the Marianas. While there may be small patches of showers at times the models keep the weather relatively dry through much of the coming week with only isolated showers expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 50°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 73°
London	Showers	55° / 41°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	64° / 53°
Manila	Thunderstorm	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorm	79° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	85° / 64°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Busan	Showers	64° / 52°
Rome	Cloudy	79° / 59°
Salem	Sunny	85° / 57°
San Francisco	Windy	60° / 47°
Seoul	Showers	59° / 46°
Tokyo	Rain	75° / 63°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	87° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.92
8:23 AM	LOW TIDE	1.86
3:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.15
10:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:27 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	-	8:13 AM	9:22 PM
Friday	-	8:59 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	9:48 AM	11:01 PM
Sunday	-	10:36 AM	11:47 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MCS, TRIBE Marianas Continue *We Drank Our Tears* series

Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas announced that they will present two more installments in the *We Drank Our Tears* film series at the Regal Saipan Megaplex today, May 2. As a follow up to last year's Francisco Babauta's story, the two new films will be Benjamin Abadilla's Story and Rafael Mafnas's Story.

All three films are adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and films chronicle three of their stories.

The first film from the series, Francisco Babauta's Story, will kick off the screening on May 2. That film won the best local production in the 2017 Marianas International Film Festival and was a finalist for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 7th Annual Guam International Film Festival. Written and directed by school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Francisco Babauta's Story earned acclaim at the festivals and received positive reviews at a few local screenings on Saipan.

Based on the success of Francisco Babauta's Story, Deleon Guerrero decided to move forward with two more films in the series. Benjamin Abadilla's story, which was written and directed by Deleon Guerrero, follows Abadilla as he is separated from his family during the battles and hides out in the jungle tries to find them. Rafael Mafnas's story, which was written and directed by students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo, tells of Mafnas's efforts to escape crossfire between American and Japanese soldiers by hiding in a cave with his friend.

While Manese and Ocampo have been involved in numerous film and stage productions, this is their first time directing. Asked why they agreed to direct, Manese referred to the first film, Francisco Babauta's story. "Ever since the first one, I've seen how much passion people have for this project, so I wanted to invest my own passion too."

A FILM BY GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
WE DRANK OUR TEARS
FRANCISCO BABAUTA'S STORY
A FILM BY GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
WE DRANK OUR TEARS
BENJAMIN ABADILLA'S STORY
A FILM BY ANGELO MANESE AND JUSTIN OCAMPO
WE DRANK OUR TEARS
RAFAEL MAFNAS'S STORY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three separate posters were designed for the three *We Drank Our Tears* films, Francisco Babauta's Story, Benjamin Abadilla's Story, and Rafael Mafnas's story

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rafael Mafnas's Story: Derrick Atalig plays Rafael Mafnas in *We Drank Our Tears*.

For Ocampo, he wanted to tell the stories. "When I saw the first *We Drank Our Tears*, I liked how it was just one of many stories to be told. It's all about telling stories."

Both Manese and Ocampo believe everyone should see the films. As Manese put it, "Having lived here all my life, and seeing how World War II affected these islands, the families of the people in these stories need to see their stories about how they were affected."

Ocampo added, "At one point, Francisco, Benjamin, and Rafael were real people who had real stories to be told. I also hope that, deep down, that is something that will resonate with audiences."

When asked the same questions, Deleon Guerrero said, "There are just so many important stories to tell, and I felt like we just had to tell them, and more people need to see them."

The films' cast and crew included a wide range of talent from across the island. Both films were produced by Deleon Guerrero, 2005 AlumKnight Rob Travilla and his company TRIBE Marianas, Frankie Eliptico and the Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Benjamin Abadilla's Story: Dylan Santos plays Benjamin Abadilla in *We Drank Our Tears*.

Rafael Mafnas' story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael. Benjamin Abadilla's story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin's sister.

Both films shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistance director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joani Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

We Drank Our Tears will be shown on May 2 at the Regal Saipan Megaplex. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the screening will start at 7pm. Tickets are $10 and are available at Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas. For more information, email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Children of Our Homeland Center May activities

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Children's Library would like to inform the public that from Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 5:30pm stationary activities will be open to children ages 1-12 and their families.

Please note that children must be accompanied by parents/guardians while participating in the stationaries. Activities include: Literacy, Math, Arts & Crafts, and Games. It's free! Materials and supplies are provided. Special thanks to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for donating the stationary activities.

The Children's Room will also be hosting the 12th Annual Collaborative Summer Program. This program is open to children ages 6-12. Participants must have a library card free of fines and/or fees. To register, parents/guardians must provide an ID of the authorized individual for pick-up and drop-off (minimum of three people). Registration begins May 15, and ends June 2. Tuesday-Friday, registration will be from 10:30am to 5:30pm. Saturdays will be open to register from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Seats are limited! The deadline to register is June 2, 2018 at 5:30pm or until seats are filled, so be sure to register soon!

Registration will take place in the Children's Library.

For more information about the stationary activities or summer reading program, please contact the Children's Librarian II Rosalinda Ulloa at rosalindaulloajkpl@gmail.com/670-235-7315, Children's librarian I Celina Foreman at foremancelina@gmail.com/670-235-7315, or Children's Library assistant I Maria Crisostomo at mariacjkpl@gmail.com/670-235-7315.

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

JSTA leads pre-tourism month cleanup

MVA

The Japan Saipan Travel Association leads a group of 17 businesses and groups in its pre-Golden Week holiday cleanup in Garapan, Saipan, on April 21, 2018. The group cleaned from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office.

MVA

The Japan Saipan Travel Association-led Garapan cleanup on April 21, 2018, netted approximately 200 lbs. of trash. Tourism-related businesses and organizations conduct the annual cleanup prior to Japan's Golden Week holiday season.

The Japan Saipan Travel Association conducted its semi-annual cleanup of Garapan on April 21, 2018, drawing 45 participants from 17 companies and collecting approximately 200 lbs of trash.

JSTA was joined by the Marianas Visitors Authority, a number of tourism industry companies, and community members in picking up trash from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office along roadways and the beach in anticipation of more tourist arrivals during Japan's Golden Week holiday and May Tourism Month.

"Year after year, JSTA and many other business and organizations conduct this annual cleanup early on a Saturday morning before Golden Week," said MVA Marketing manager Broc Calvo. "The MVA is very grateful to JSTA and our other community partners for their consistent care over the years in helping to make The Marianas a beautiful place to live, do business, and visit."

Other participating companies and organizations were: Japan Consular Office, Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association Pacific Development Inc., Pacific Micronesia Tours, Tasi Tours & Transportation, H.I.S. Saipan, Himawari Kenbukan, Good Care, Aqua Connections, Islanders Net Inc., Saipan Sea Ventures, KCA Corp., and Tan Holdings Corp.

The Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays within seven days and is one of Japan's busiest holiday seasons. ***(PR)***

Matson community giving tops $3.7M in 2017

GUAM—Matson contributed a total of more than $3.7 million in cash and in-kind donations to charitable organizations and community efforts in the communities it serves in 2017, with more than $310,000 in cash, services and equipment going to support Guam, Micronesia and South Pacific island organizations.

» Guam and Pacific Island organizations received $310K

"One of our core values at Matson is contributing positively to the communities in which we work and live. It's not a slogan; we try to live our values and last year, I'm proud to say on behalf of all Matson employees, we contributed more than ever," said Matt Cox, chairman and CEO.

Last year, Matson supported 88 Guam and Micronesia organizations and 21 South Pacific organizations providing community resources in human services; youth development/recreation; community improvement/disaster preparedness; education; cultural and the arts; environmental preservation; agriculture and nutrition; and maritime safety.

Matson continues to fulfill a five-year $50,000 scholarship program supporting post-secondary scholarships in Guam and Micronesia.

"The Matson Guam team is very proud to be a part of a company that believes in enhancing the lives of our employees, customers and the people in the communities we serve," said Bernie Valencia, vice president and general manager, Guam and Micronesia. "We would also like to thank the charitable organizations we've worked with this past year for their good work, especially in the areas of education and environmental and cultural preservation. We will continue to be good stewards of the environment and to make Micronesia a better place for all of us who call it home."

Matson also supported public safety efforts in American Samoa, women's leadership programs in FSM and RMI as well as local sports, including rugby and outrigger canoe paddling.

In addition to Matson's cash donations, major in-kind support included donated or discounted shipping of medical equipment and supplies to Palau, Pohnpei and Majuro.

Matson's environmental program, Adahi I Tano' (caring for the land), marked its fifth year by partnering with 24 Guam organizations—generally sports and student groups—each earning $500 for weekend clean-ups, removing trash and debris from public areas. Since the program began, Adahi I Tano' has benefited 78 different charities.

Detailed information on Matson's 2017 giving is available in its annual giving report, Manifest, posted on the company's website at https://www.matson.com/foundation/index.html.

Founded in 1882, Matson (NYSE: MATX) is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Micronesia and select South Pacific islands, and operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California.

The company's fleet of 22 owned vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, and less-than-container load freight consolidation and forwarding to Alaska.

Additional information about Matson, Inc. is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

Securing food, water security ahead of drought in remote communities in North Pacific

KOLONIA, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia—Participants from three small North Pacific island countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau, joined development partners last week to share experiences from the 2015-2016 severe El Niño drought and explore ways to work with communities to secure food and water resources ahead of the next drought.

The European Union (EU) in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) hosted the European Union—North Pacific—Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project's first regional planning and steering committee meeting.

Climate change and climate variability is a serious threat to the livelihoods and sustainable development of Pacific people. In the 2015-2016 El Niño drought, disruptions to agriculture, tourism and industrial production caused severe economic losses, many households faced food and water shortages, and the provision of health and education services was severely impacted.

In his opening remarks, the Team Leader, Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Mr Adrian Nicolae, emphasized the EU's support for the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

"The EU encourages the North Pacific countries to invest in long term solutions that promote climate and disaster resilient development through the opportunities presented by the RENI project and other interventions," he said.

Officer-in-charge of the SPC Micronesia Office, Ms Maire Dwyer, noted that communities are at the heart of the RENI project as evidenced by its people-centred approach.

"This is one of the first times that SPC's Regional Rights Resources Team and Social Development Programme have combined their skills and expertise to mainstream a rights-based approach into a climate and disaster resilience project," she said.

Participants learnt ways in ways in which they could be inclusive when consulting with communities, e.g. to liaise directly with vulnerable individuals who were unable to attend community consultations such as persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with impaired mobility.

Countries shared their experiences and responses during the 2015/2016 drought and advanced their planning on how the RENI project can assist communities secure food and water resources ahead of the next drought.

The RENI project also addresses the needs of outer island communities and a panel session on "Outer island migration—a socio-economic or climate change issue—or both?" was one of the highlights of the meeting.

"Outer island people are very resilient and they have been practising a traditional and sustainable lifestyle for thousands of years," said Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, FSM, Andrew Yatilman said.

"People in the outer islands have a strong connection to their land, it is like an umbilical cord, for example, Yapese will move away for education and job opportunities but will nearly always come back to their island," the Secretary added.

It was observed that outward migration, especially to the United States mainland, increased during times of economic hardships in 1992 and 1997.

Discussion during the session concluded that outer island migration in the North Pacific countries was largely driven by socio-economic factors and that climate change has, up to the present, only been a contributory factor. ***(PR)***

Business

Admin puts off decision on tariffs for EU, others

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is postponing a decision on imposing tariffs on U.S. imports of steel and aluminum from the European Union, Canada and Mexico for 30 days, avoiding the potential for a trade battle with Europe as the U.S. prepares for tense trade talks in China this week.

The Trump administration said Monday it had reached an agreement with South Korea on steel imports following discussions on a revised trade agreement, the outlines of which were previously announced by U.S. and South Korean officials. And the administration said it had also reached agreements in principle with Argentina, Australia and Brazil on steel and aluminum that will be finalized shortly.

Announcing the trade actions, the White House said "in all of these negotiations, the administration is focused on quotas that will restrain imports, prevent transshipment and protect the national security."

Facing a self-imposed deadline, President Donald Trump was considering whether to permanently exempt the EU and Mexico, Canada, Australia, Argentina and Brazil from tariffs that his administration imposed last month on imported steel and aluminum. The White House provided temporary exemptions in March and had until the end of Monday to decide whether to extend them.

The EU has said if it loses its exemption it will retaliate with its own tariffs on U.S. goods imported to Europe.

The confrontation stems from the president's decision in March to slap tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on imported aluminum. Trump justified the action by saying it was needed to protect American metal producers from unfair competition and bolster national security. But the announcement, which followed an intense internal White House debate, triggered harsh criticism from Democrats and some Republicans and roiled financial markets.

At the time, Trump excluded several vital trading partners—the European Union, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Argentina and Brazil—from the tariffs.

That meant the steel tariff covered just 30 percent of all imports, according to Oxford Economics. If all the exemptions were ended, it would have deepened the impact of the tariffs on American companies that use steel and potentially affect financial markets. Stock prices fell nearly 2 percent when the tariffs were announced.

Two people familiar with the process said the Trump administration had been considering whether to provide a short-term extension of the exemptions to allow for more time to review the countries' efforts to secure permanent exemptions.

One of the officials said the U.S. trade representative has been overseeing the process for all of the countries except for the European Union, whose tariffs are being evaluated by the Commerce Department.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations.

The EU and others had been asked to spell out what limits they could accept on the amount of steel they export to the United States, how they would address the issue of excess production of steel and aluminum and how they would support the U.S. before international bodies like the World Trade Organization. Security relationships with the U.S. have also been part of the criteria.

South Korea agreed to limit its exports to the United States as part of broader discussions involved in updating its bilateral trade agreement with the U.S. and was granted a permanent exemption.

China, Japan and Russia haven't received exemptions from the duties. That will likely reduce steel shipments from those countries over time. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said late Friday that quotas on imports from Europe and other countries are necessary so imports from those countries don't simply replace Chinese imports. The goal of the tariffs is to reduce total steel imports and boost U.S. production, Ross said.

"If you let everybody back out of the tariff, and you let them out of any kind of quota, how would you ever reduce the imports here?" Ross asked at a conference of business journalists. Ross is set to discuss the issue Monday with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom.

Panasonic to pay $280M to settle federal corruption probe

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (AP)—Panasonic Corp. will pay about $280 million to resolve federal charges that executives at its in-flight entertainment unit improperly hid payments to consultants overseas in violation of anti-corruption rules, officials announced Monday.

The Japanese electronics giant's parent company will pay $143 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission, while its Southern California subsidiary, Panasonic Avionics, will pay $137 million in penalties to the U.S. Justice Department, federal prosecutors said.

The investigation concerned payments to consultants in Asia and the Middle East, at least one of which did little or no work, authorities said.

Panasonic Avionics was accused of concealing payments to third-party sales agents between 2007 and 2016, in violation of the accounting provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Those payments were improperly recorded in Panasonic's regulatory filings, officials said.

"When Panasonic Avionics Corporation caused its publicly-traded parent company to falsify its books and records, it distorted the information available to legitimate investors," said acting Assistant Attorney General John Cronan.

In one case, Panasonic hired a foreign official as a consultant while the official was simultaneously negotiating a contract between the company and a government-owned airline.

The official was paid $875,000 over six years, despite doing "little work," according to documents.

The case has prompted internal changes at Panasonic, including "appointing a new management team and substantially reducing, and enhancing controls around, the use of third-party agents and consultants," the company said in a statement Monday.

Panasonic Avionics also agreed to engage an independent compliance monitor for a period of two years.

"Panasonic takes these issues very seriously and is committed to increasing compliance awareness throughout the organization and strengthening its oversight of its subsidiaries globally," the statement said.

Nation

Migrants in caravan criticized by Trump start seeking asylum

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Central Americans who traveled in a caravan through Mexico to the border with San Diego began turning themselves to U.S. authorities to seek asylum Monday in a direct challenge to the Trump administration.

A migrant father and child, who traveled with the annual caravan of Central American migrants, rest where they set up camp to wait for access to request asylum in the US, outside the El Chaparral port of entry building at the US-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico, Monday, April 30, 2018. AP

Nearly 200 migrants, many traveling with children, decided to apply for protection at the nation's busiest border crossing after many fled violence in their home countries, organizers said.

Wendi Yaneri Garcia says she's confident she will be released while her asylum case winds its way through the courts because she's traveling alone with her 2-year-old son, who has been sick.

"All I want is a place where I can work and raise my son," the 36-year-old said.

She said police in her hometown of Atlantida, Honduras, jailed her for protesting construction of a hydroelectric plant and that she received death threats after being released.

President Donald Trump and members of his Cabinet have been tracking the caravan of migrants, calling it a threat to the U.S. since it started March 25 in the Mexican city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has called the caravan "a deliberate attempt to undermine our laws and overwhelm our system," pledging to send more immigration judges to the border to resolve cases if necessary.

Trump administration officials have railed against what they call America's "catch and release" policies that allow people requesting asylum to be released from custody into the U.S. while their claims make their way through the courts, a process that can last a year.

The caravan's arrival at San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing marked the end of a monthlong journey by foot, freight train and bus for the migrants, many of whom said they feared for their lives in their home countries.

Nefi Hernandez, 24, said a gang in his hometown of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, threatened to kill him and his family if he did not sell drugs. He intended to seek asylum with his wife and baby daughter, who was born on the journey through Mexico.

Jose Cazares, 31, said he faced death threats in the Honduran city of Yoro because a gang member suspected of killing the mother of his children learned one of his sons reported the crime to police.

But the travelers faced an uncertain future as they asked for asylum. U.S. immigration lawyers warned them that they face possible separation from their children and detention for many months.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said asylum claims will be resolved "efficiently and expeditiously." But she warned that any asylum seekers making false claims could be prosecuted, as could anyone who assists the migrants in doing so.

Arizona teachers say strike still on despite budget deal

PHOENIX (AP)—Thousands of Arizona teachers gathered for the third day at the Capitol on Monday to protest low pay and school funding, and many schools around the state remained closed, while the Legislature prepared to introduce a budget package that gives them raises but falls short of other demands.

The budget package negotiated between Republicans who control the Legislature and GOP Gov. Doug Ducey provides the first 10 percent of what will be a 20 percent increase by 2020. The governor is counting a 1 percent raise awarded to teachers this year as part of that raise, meaning it will be 19 percent by 2020.

It also restores $100 million out of the nearly $400 million in recession-era cuts to a fund that helps schools pay for books, school buses and other capital expenses.

But several teachers interviewed Monday said that doesn't go far enough after years of low funding that not only left them among the lowest paid in the nation but also has many schools operating with broken equipment and outdated books.

"Not only is there an issue with teacher salaries, but our buildings," said Jessica Hauer, a former classroom teacher at a Phoenix-area school district now working in administration. "I don't think $100 million is enough. From the numbers I'm seeing we've been in such a decline for such a long period of time, 10 years, that's it's not going to be enough money. And I'm not sure his plan is sustainable."

Late Monday afternoon, the grass-roots teachers group that called the strike said it would continue at least through Wednesday.

Arizona Educators United organizer Kelly Wendland Fisher told members during a Facebook Live video that they need to keep the pressure on lawmakers to ensure the budget provides needed cash for schools.

Fisher told teachers to organize events with parents or other backers in their home districts Tuesday morning and then come to the Capitol to keep pressure on lawmakers.

Hauer said her district's schools have worn out central air conditioning, fire alarm and security systems that will cost millions to replace.

"The fire alarm system now at (one) school goes off so often the students are starting to ignore it," Hauer said.

Asia

IN BLOW TO TAIWAN

Dominican Republic forges ties with China

BEIJING (AP)—The Dominican Republic established diplomatic relations with China on Tuesday, breaking ties with Beijing's rival Taiwan in the latest blow to the self-ruled island democracy China has been trying to isolate on the global stage. Taiwan said it was "deeply upset" by the move.

Officials from China and the Dominican government signed a joint communique at an event in Beijing announcing the establishment of ties. The Dominican Republic "breaks diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which is an inalienable part of China, and will not maintain any kind of official relations or contacts," said foreign minister Miguel Vargas, who sat alongside Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi.

The decision was the latest setback for Taiwan in the Caribbean and Latin America. Panama dropped its longtime ties with Taiwan last year and established relations with China, which considers Taiwan to be Chinese territory. The island is recognized as a sovereign nation by only 19 mainly small, developing countries.

Taiwan criticized what it called China's "dollar diplomacy" and announced it would terminate ties with the Dominican Republic immediately, including all projects and assistance it provides to the Caribbean nation.

"This is an unfriendly and destructive approach to cross-strait relations," Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen told reporters at an event in Taipei, referring to China's action. "These actions will make the people in Taiwan feel disappointed and increase the variables in cross-strait relations."

The announcement came just a day after Tsai had met with the foreign minister of Haiti, one of Taiwan's allies, in Taipei.

Beijing has been seeking to increase pressure on Tsai, whose independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party says it wants stable relations with China, but refuses to endorse the "one China" principle.

Some analysts say Chinese President Xi Jinping, one of the most powerful Chinese leaders in decades, seems determined to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control during his time in office, something that would place him in the history books alongside Mao Zedong.

The island's 23 million residents are strongly in favor of maintaining their de facto independent status, but Xi has previously warned a Taiwanese envoy that the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely.

Wang, China's foreign minister, hailed "a new page in the history of bilateral ties" between Beijing and the Dominican Republic. "From now on, China has one more good friend in Latin America with whom we could help each other," Wang said.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said Beijing had offered "vast financial incentives" to the Dominican Republic to get it to end 77 years of diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Wu warned that Beijing has failed to deliver on hundreds of millions of dollars in pledges to some of Taiwan's former diplomatic allies. He said the Taiwanese government was "deeply upset by China's actions."

Taiwan "strongly condemns China's objectionable decision to use dollar diplomacy to convert Taiwan's allies," Wu said.

"While Taiwan faces serious diplomatic challenges, the government will not bow down to pressure from Beijing," Wu said.

Flavio Dario Espinal, legal consultant to the Dominican presidential office, said at a news conference Monday in Santo Domingo that the change in foreign policy was based on the "needs, potential and future prospects" of his Caribbean nation.

"History and socioeconomics reality now force us to change course," he said.

Espinal said that even without formal diplomatic relations with China, trade between the two countries "has grown year after year to the point that today China is the second biggest supplier of our imports."

After Panama cut its ties with Taiwan, then-Taiwanese Foreign Minister David Tawei Lee visited the Dominican Republic last July as part of a campaign to shore up its relations and propose new cooperation projects. During his stay in Santo Domingo, Lee also met with Taiwan's ambassadors in Latin America to discuss strategies for not losing more allies.

The Dominican Republic has received millions of dollars in donations for development programs from Taiwan, but the government also started commercial and political contacts with China beginning in the middle of the past decade.

According to the Dominican government, bilateral trade with China has reached $2 billion a year, making the Dominican Republic the second-largest trading partner for China among the Caribbean and Central American nations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Korean Air heiress apologies before police questioning

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Korean Air heiress has apologized in her first public appearance as a suspect in an abuse of power case as public calls urging her family to resign grow. Former Korean Air Senior Vice President Cho Hyun-min said Tuesday she was sorry for causing troubles as she appeared to be fighting back tears surrounded by reporters outside police offices. Her appearance was broadcast live. She is a younger sister of Cho Hyun-ah who won worldwide notoriety for a "nut rage" incident four years ago. Cho allegedly threw a drink at a business meeting with an ad agency. The scandal snowballed to engulf the Cho family as Korean Air employees made tips about other alleged wrongdoing by the family, including possible tax evasion.

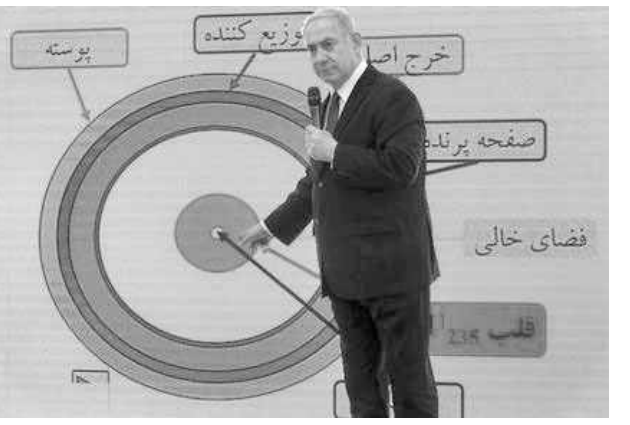
Police say suspected rebels fatally shot 3 men in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Suspected militants shot and killed three men in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said on Tuesday. Three suspected insurgents fired at the three local men overnight in the main town of Baramulla, police said. The victims, in the age range of 20 to 25, were shot at close range and died instantly. Baramulla is some 60 kilometers (37 miles) in the west of Srinagar, the main city of the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the deaths of the men. Police officer Imtiyaz Husain said they were investigating the motive behind the killings but blamed the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the shootings.

World

Israel says documents prove Iran lied about nuke program

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Monday unveiled what he said was a "half ton" of Iranian nuclear documents collected by Israeli intelligence, claiming it proved that Iranian leaders covered up a nuclear weapons program before signing a deal with world powers in 2015.



AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presents material on Iranian nuclear weapons development during a press conference in Tel Aviv, Monday, April 30 2018.

In a speech delivered in English and relying on his trademark use of visual aids, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed the material showed that Iran cannot be trusted, and encouraged President Donald Trump to withdraw from the deal next month.

"Iran lied big time," Netanyahu declared.

In Washington, Trump said it vindicated his past criticism of the nuclear deal.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said later that the U.S. had been aware of the documents "for a while" and that he and Netanyahu discussed them during their meeting in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Speaking with reporters while flying back to the U.S., Pompeo said that although the existence of Iran's nuclear arms program had been public knowledge for years, the documents give new detail about its scope and scale and prove Iran was lying when it claimed never to have been pursuing nuclear weapons.

"This will belie any notion that there wasn't a program," Pompeo said.

He issued a statement later saying Iran also lied to the six nations with which it negotiated the nuclear agreement.

"What this means is the deal was not constructed on a foundation of good faith or transparency. It was built on Iran's lies," the statement said.

Iran's deception is inconsistent with its pledge in the nuclear deal "that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons," Pompeo said, adding that the U.S. is now assessing what the documents mean for the nuclear deal.

Netanyahu's presentation, delivered on live TV from Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv, did not appear to provide evidence that Iran has violated the 2015 deal, raising questions about whether it would sway international opinion ahead of Trump's decision.

The U.S.-led agreement offered Iran relief from crippling sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

Netanyahu furiously fought the deal while President Barack Obama was negotiating it, and he has been a leading critic since it was signed. He says it does not provide sufficient safeguards to prevent Iran from reaching nuclear weapons capability.

Senior politicians in Brazil could soon face swifter justice

SAO PAULO (AP)—In 2012, Brazilian prosecutors accused Marcos da Rocha Mendes of handing out meat and 50 real ($15) bills to secure the 2008 mayoral election in Cabo Frio, a city on the country's southeastern coast.

A regional electoral court accepted the charges in 2013. But the case has subsequently been shifted to a lower court and then up to Brazil's Supreme Federal Tribunal, which began discussing it last year. Six years after charges were filed, the country's highest court is now deciding if the case should be bounced to yet another tribunal.

This is Brazil's "foro privilegiado," or "privileged standing," at work—the legal concept that gives nearly 55,000 sitting politicians the right to have cases against them heard by a higher court. It's meant to protect officials from politically motivated prosecutions by putting their cases in front of more experienced judges, but in Latin America's largest nation it has effectively shielded senior politicians from conviction even as the country has made enormous strides against impunity in its watershed "Car Wash" corruption investigation.

"It's exactly people who are the most exposed to the risk of corruption, of illegal activities contrary to the public interest, who are protected by this system," said Bruno Brandao, executive director of Transparency International in Brazil. "It's an engine of impunity in Brazil."

The Supreme Federal Tribunal's ruling in Mendes' case could change all that—by dramatically limiting the current generous interpretation of privileged standing and thus potentially exposing politicians to much swifter justice.

The ruling could come as soon as Wednesday, although justices at past sessions have asked for more time to analyze the issue. So far, eight of the court's 11 justices have made a preliminary vote in favor of some kind of restriction.

Limiting privileged standing would be a major boost to the mammoth Operation Car Wash probe, in which prosecutors have alleged that Brazil's government was effectively run like a cartel for years, with politicians doling out favors and state contracts in exchange for bribes and campaign contributions. The investigation has shaken Brazil's political system and put dozens of powerful people in jail, including some of the country's richest men.

But despite Car Wash's successes, senior politicians who have the right to have their cases heard at the Supreme Federal Tribunal have been conspicuously absent from the probe's record. Instead, many of the corruption investigation's most famous defendants have been business executives.

Focus

AP

In this April 2, 2015 file photo, a visitor waits at the entrance to JD.com's head office in Beijing. JD.com, Executives from five major brands told AP that after they refused exclusive deals with Alibaba and instead participated in big promotions with its archrival JD.com, traffic to their products on Alibaba's Tmall fell, hurting sales. Alibaba says it has never punished anyone.

US brands suffer collateral damage in Chinese corporate war

SHANGHAI (AP)—It was looking like a banner year for business in China. The U.S. clothing company was expecting a 20 percent jump in online sales on Alibaba's Tmall, thanks to the e-commerce giant's massive reach.

But executives soon learned that what Alibaba gives, it can also take away.

The company refused to sign an exclusive contract with Alibaba, and instead participated in a big sale promotion with its archrival, JD.com Inc. Tmall punished them by taking steps to cut traffic to their storefront, two executives told The Associated Press. They said advertising banners vanished from prominent spots in Tmall sales showrooms, the company was blocked from special sales and products stopped appearing in top search results.

The well-known American brand saw its Tmall sales plummet 10 to 20 percent for the year.

"Based on our sales record, we should have been in a prominent position, but we were at the bottom of the page," said the brand's e-commerce director, who spoke only on condition of anonymity for fear of further retaliation. "That's a clear manipulation of traffic. That's a clear punishment."

As the Trump administration pushes China to play by fair trade rules, companies are caught in a quieter but no less crucial struggle for fair access to a $610 billion online marketplace, an AP investigation has found.

Executives from five major consumer brands told the AP that after they refused to enter exclusive partnerships with Alibaba, traffic to their Tmall storefronts fell, hurting sales. Three are American companies with billions in annual sales that rely on China for growth.

In a statement, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. said pursuing exclusive deals is a common industry practice and called the charges of coercion "completely false."

"Alibaba and Tmall conduct business in full compliance with Chinese laws," Alibaba said. "Like many e-commerce platforms, we have exclusive partnerships with some of the merchants on Tmall. The merchant decides to choose such an arrangement because of the attractive services and value Tmall brings to them."

Imagine a company twice as profitable as Amazon that each year serves more people than live in all of North America. That's Alibaba. It claims to be the marketplace for nearly $550 billion a year in sales—more than is sold online in the entire U.S. economy.

The trials of the affected companies offer a rare window onto a bruising business culture forged in China that could spread as Alibaba takes its aggressive, innovative and hugely profitable model of e-commerce global. To the extent that their products are manufactured in the United States—and some are—constricting sales in China's critical growth market can also deepen the imbalance of trade between China and the U.S., a gap that is a top concern for the Trump administration.

The competition between Alibaba and JD.com is so infamous in China - and so dirty - it's been dubbed the "great cat-and-dog war," after Tmall's black-cat mascot and JD.com's white dog.

The executives spoke to the AP only on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, but their concerns were echoed by a U.S. industry group, brand consultants and policy makers in China and JD.com itself.

In a speech about cyberspace last week, Chinese president Xi Jinping said ensuring free and fair competition online was a regulatory priority, citing the need "to cultivate a fair market environment, strengthen intellectual property protection, and oppose monopoly and unfair competition," state media reported.

In its months-long investigation, the AP interviewed more than 30 people and reviewed two contracts from Alibaba that contained previously unreported exclusivity clauses. The AP found that the platforms that control access to Chinese consumers online wield such enormous power that even multibillion-dollar foreign companies can have trouble fighting back.

"We urge the authorities to quickly investigate and take steps to ensure such practices are eliminated from the growing Chinese marketplace," said Stephen Lamar, executive vice president of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, adding that members of his industry group had complained about unfair competitive practices by Alibaba.

JD.com is a member and sponsor of the trade group.

Wang Hongbo, a consultant who helps Chinese brands sell online abroad, echoed the problems cited by the companies who spoke to AP.

"Many brands complained about this to us. Because they didn't fall in line, they faced restrictions on Tmall," he said.

It's not clear whether Alibaba's actions would be illegal, nor is it certain that the evidence of coercion that brands have managed to collect would hold up in court. Under China's anti-monopoly laws, companies that dominate a market cannot demand exclusivity without justification. A 2015 regulation also specifically bars e-commerce platforms from restricting brands' participation in promotions on other platforms.

The rules are designed to prevent dominant players from squeezing out the competition, which could ultimately hurt both brands and consumers by giving a single, monopolistic player absolute control over prices.

JD.com said that over 100 Chinese brands defected last year due to pressure from its main rival, an assertion Alibaba and some brands have contested. The exodus appears to have had a lasting impact.

"Based on the feedbacks we received from these merchants, the move was mainly due to the coercive tactics from our competition, which if proven true would be illegal and clearly against the merchants' will," said Sidney Huang, JD.com's chief financial officer, said in a November earnings call.

Peacebird, a Chinese fashion company, is among those that left JD.com last year. But Weng Jianghong, the company's general manager of e-commerce, said Alibaba had not coerced them and the decision to focus on Tmall was strategic.

"We will centralize and develop the limited resources of our company on Tmall," he said.

Many companies, including JD.com, do exclusive deals. However, JD.com maintains that it doesn't strategically push merchants for exclusivity.

"We support fair and open competition because greater choice is always better for brands and users," JD.com said in a statement. "We are winning over customers by providing a superior shopping experience, rather than by limiting the options of brands or consumers."

JD.com is still trying to get brands to return. "We do believe there will be more merchants coming back," Huang said in a call last month with analysts. "But I do not expect a very quick fix."

PLAY OR PAY

Tmall controlled six of every 10 dollars spent overall for business-to-consumer sales online in China in the second half of last year - and even more for sectors like apparel - giving it enormous power over companies that rely on Alibaba for access to Chinese consumers online.

The contracts reviewed by AP offered a suite of benefits in exchange for exclusivity. One contract specified that brands must not operate storefronts on other e-commerce platforms without Tmall's written permission. The other contract mandated that new products not be launched on competing platforms and barred brands from sales promotions on other platforms without Tmall's written permission.

Such sales events are the lifeblood of online commerce in China. The country's massive Singles Day promotion in November, which started as an anti-Valentine's Day gimmick, is now the world's largest e-commerce event. Last year, Alibaba said $25 billion worth of merchandise was sold on its platforms alone, compared with just $14.5 billion in total online sales in the U.S. for Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday and Cyber Monday combined, according to data from Adobe Systems Inc.

Brands cited commercial, ideological and legal reasons for refusing to cut off business with JD.com.

Some said that different people shop in different ways on JD.com and Tmall, so cutting off JD.com means cutting off access to a pool of potential shoppers.

"It's clear from the data we look at these are distinct consumer pools," said the China head of a publicly-traded company. "If I lost the JD business I would lose a certain part of that business. Another part is on principle: This is blatant anticompetitive behavior."

Others cited legal concerns. "We didn't want to go for it in part because we thought it might be an illegal agreement in restraint of trade," said an executive for a second publicly-traded company.

"We're chided when we participate in promotional events on other platforms," he added. "What's never said but actually happens when we don't cooperate in the way they want us to is our traffic falls. It's not a coincidence."

Two companies said they granted concessions to Alibaba, agreeing to exclusive product launches, raising their prices on JD.com, or removing ads promoting JD.com sales. Traffic to their Tmall shops rebounded. One company said it ultimately closed its flagship on JD.com to salvage Tmall sales.

"You have to go beg," said the China director of a multibillion dollar publicly-traded company.

THE GREAT CAT-AND-DOG WAR

Tmall and JD.com have different business models but they are increasingly pushing onto each other's turf.

Alibaba's online marketplaces connect buyers and

See CHINESE on Next Page

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: Mountain Laurels make spring even more incredible

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TNS

Mountain laurels are native from Louisiana to Indiana northward to Maine and all states southward.

TNS

The wood on older mountain laurels looks gnarly exhibiting a feel of perseverance.

The mountain laurels are blooming in the South adding to what has been an incredible spring. No doubt under Mother Nature's watch full eye the mountain laurel bloom will progress northward in amazing fashion.

Stunning is a word I often use to describe a particular plant but today that word is reserved today for the apparent lack of utilization of the wonderful large shrub or small tree that is native from Louisiana to Indiana eastward to Maine and then down to Florida.

With that huge geographical range, we hopefully have answered your first question, no you don't have to have a mountain to grow it. Yet you'll find them along mountainous roads, and a wide variety of habitats. In fact, if you grow azaleas, rhododendrons or blueberries you are a prime candidate for a mountain laurel, and I say let it happen.

Botanically speaking the mountain laurel is known as Kalmia latifolia. When you first see it in full bloom you start to think could they possibly be some kind of rhododendron. They indeed are in the Ericaceae family so they are related.

You'll find them in some of the most spectacular scenery in our country. My wide Jan and I were doing a little mountain laurel hunting with the camera and found breathing taking old specimen hanging over the gentle rapids of Palmetto Creek in Harris County, GA.

Trout fishermen in the Blue Ridge mountains tell of seeing them hanging over the Toccoa, Chattooga and Nantahala rivers. You'll find them in residential areas too so you do not have to have a river either.

Morning sun and afternoon shade is the common joke around my house. While that would be perfect know that you'll find them in more shade and more sun too. They can reach 15 feet in height and look dazzling at less than six feet. That can be their spread as well.

What you'll notice on older specimen is gnarling, curving trunk with branches that look as though they have a story to tell of times past and things they have experienced. This stout wood was once used for handles of tools.

If you ever have the chance to stand in front of an old timer in bloom you'll leave feeling as though you have just experienced something grand in the world of plants and that perhaps you have just been taught a lesson on beauty, patience and perhaps a persevering spirit.

So, in the home landscape we recommend the mountain laurel to be planted in fertile, humus rich acidic soil that drains with fervor. If you have tight heavy soil don't fret plant in raised beds.

In one of my favorite spots along a smaller moving creek I can see rose pink, light pink and white native ones all growing with mere feet of each other. A search on line shows you the rich colors that are available.

The flowers are so exotic in their design. They are borne in terminal clusters, each measuring up to an inch and giving the distinct look of being a five-sided cup. As I mentioned ours are blooming now in late April but in your area your bloom could be June.

Wouldn't it be fun to just follow the mountain laurel bloom across the county finishing in Maine? It would probably be even more rewarding to plant some at your home that your children and grandchildren would experience over the years. Then someday whether your descendants, or someone else's, they would look with amazement and learn a lesson of perseverance with the gnarly branches and beautiful flowers.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

In Loving Memory of

Ereong Samil

DOB: August 24, 1919
Died: April 17, 2018

She now joins her:

Sons: Hideo Omelau
Mermacheos Omelau
Merilang Samil

Daughters: Hideko Omelau
Mellomes Samil

Grandchildren: Chuck Elwais
Elizer Elwais

Her loving memories will always be remembered in the hearts of her:

Children:
Alfonso Samil & Family
Elwais Samil & Family
Ellena Sutton & Family
Dilubch Samil & Family

She is additionally survived by her
Grandchildren (14) ,
Great grandchildren (19),
& Great great grandchildren (2)

On Friday, May 4, 2018 at 7:30 a.m., her remains will be transported from CHCC to her residence in Capitol Hill, and will proceed thereafter to SDA Church in Quarter Master Road behind SDA Dental Clinic for viewing & last respects until 11:00 a.m. Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Her remains will leave the church at 12:00p.m. and proceed to Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you, Sulang
Children & Families

CHINESE

From Page 17

sellers. Alibaba earns money from advertising, as well as commissions and fees. JD.com runs a similar marketplace but, like Amazon, also buys products from brands, then sells and distributes the merchandise itself.

Alibaba has taken aim at JD.com's long-standing dominance in electronics, while JD.com hopes to cut into Tmall's core apparel category. Both have expanded into groceries and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into acquisitions to extend their reach into brick-and-mortar businesses.

The result is an escalating turf fight that carries a chilling message for brands: Either you're with us or against us. The Chinese have a name for this unwritten rule, "er xuan yi," choose one of two.

"'Choose one of two' is a tacit understanding that has been reached by everyone, but you do not say it directly," said Zhuo Saijun, who until 2015 was a general manager of e-commerce research at Analysys Ltd., a Beijing-based big data consultancy. "This is certainly a problem for the development of retail sales channels. It is a business ethics problem, and this is how monopolies develop."

Some policymakers have raised concerns about monopolistic tendencies in Chinese e-commerce and called for more effective regulation and enforcement.

"Unfair competition still exists," Wang Bingnan, a deputy director at China's Ministry of Commerce, said in a June speech about China's e-commerce market. "Behaviors like forced 'choose one of two,'" he added, "are hard for regulators to define, prove or deal with accurately."

JD.com has complained about anticompetitive tactics before. In 2015, the company filed a complaint with the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, a corporate regulator, accusing Alibaba of pressuring brands into doing exclusive Singles Day sales promotions—a charge Alibaba denied. The complaint was kicked to a regional office in Zhejiang province, where Alibaba has its headquarters.

Nothing more was ever heard about it.

The regulators did not respond to requests for comment.

Alibaba said that while JD.com focuses "on groundless complaints to explain why they are losing brands, we at Alibaba are squarely focused on making our platform the best for our merchants."

MR. MA GOES GLOBAL

The battles now being waged within China's e-commerce sector could well impact the culture and norms of e-commerce globally - at least if Alibaba's chairman, Jack Ma, has his way.

Alibaba aims to serve 2 billion consumers by 2036—or about one in four people now on the planet. Already, the value of goods sold on Alibaba's platforms in fiscal year 2017 was $547 billion, larger than the gross domestic product of Sweden.

In June, Ma told investors that his company will rank as the fifth largest economy in the world. "Just say USA, China, Europe, maybe Japan and us," Ma said.

The company has been aggressively recruiting foreign brands to sell on its platforms, and they have come, in droves. Alibaba said it signed up 60,000 international brands for its massive Single's Day sale in November, up from 5,000 in 2015.

Alibaba's retail sales outside of China also are growing fast—they more than doubled last fiscal year to 7.3 billion yuan ($1.1 billion), or 5 percent of total revenue.

America remains at the heart of Ma's ambition. He told president-elect Donald Trump in Jan. 2017 that he would create a million U.S. jobs by facilitating trade between businesses in the U.S and consumers in China—a pledge he now says is imperiled by the brewing trade war between the two countries.

Brands now caught in the great cat and dog war have adopted different strategies to avoid becoming collateral damage.

An e-commerce manager at a major European brand said she'd be happy to offer totally different products on Tmall and JD.com to stay out of trouble, but worries her bosses won't go for it because it cuts off potential buyers.

Sometimes, she said, it feels "like we're working for those platforms."

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Antonia Maria Villagomez Ierome

"Tona"

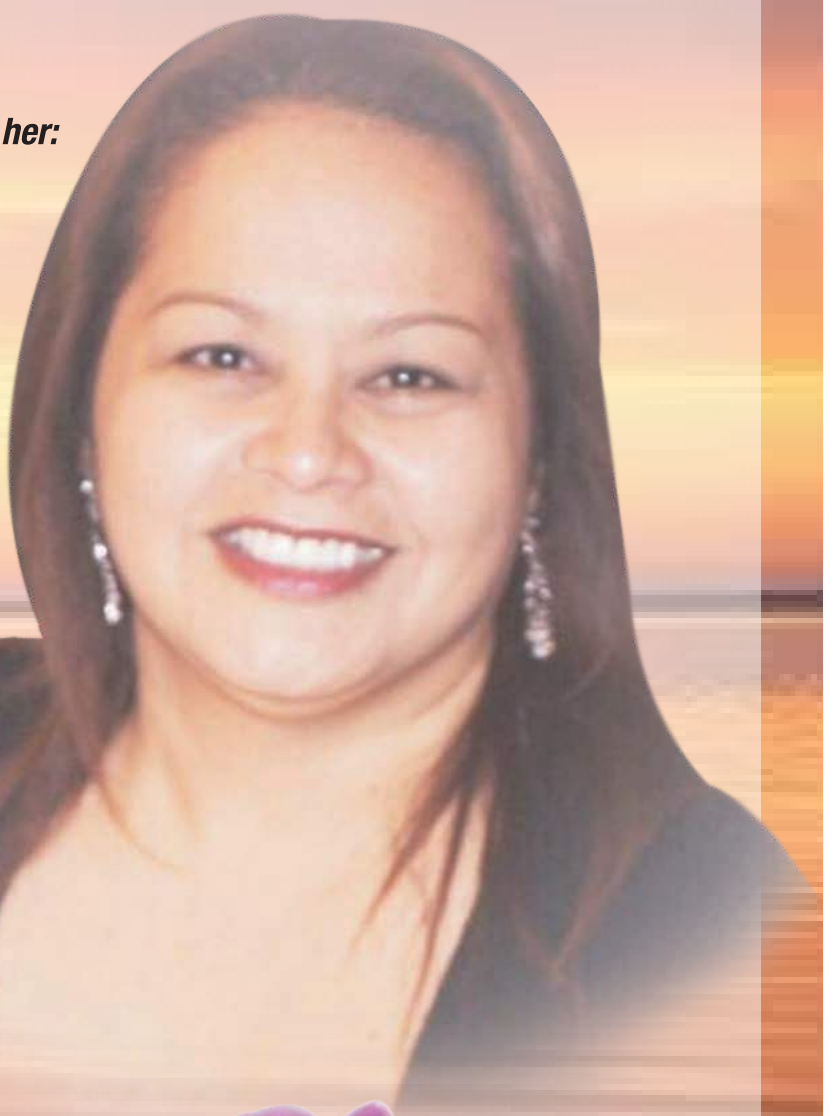
Born to Life: September 8, 1968 - Called to Eternal Home: April 22, 2018

In her new life, she now joins:

Parents	Manuel Seman Villagomez & Luise Pangelinan Villagomez
Parents-in-Law	Niu Nu'uiali'i Iakopo Ierome & Talatalaga Fua Niu Ierome
Brother	Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez
Reared Sister	Bernadita Basa Mendiola

Her beautiful spirit and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband	Jerome I. Ierome
Daughter	Hope Liliouakalani Villagomez Ierome
Reared Children	Martha B. Mendiola & Alexander M. Standish (Donaven, Ava, Madex, Deion) Elena B. Mendiola (Elicia, Dre) Donald B. Jr. & Yuko Mendiola (Nalu, Irie, Rina) Steven B. & Maggie C. Mendiola (Aleighana)
Siblings	Linda V. & Felix B. Cepeda Patricia V. & Juan B. Cepeda Thomas P. Villagomez & Nicolasa B. Babauta Barbara V. & Joseph D. Wesley Manuel P. Villagomez, Jr. & Jeanie Dison Edward P. Villagomez David P. Villagomez, Kalena Yim, Randy King, & Oat King Nora V. & Raymond DLG. Borja John P. & Jeanette T. Villagomez Ramona V. & John A. Manglona
In-Laws	Seiuli Elisapeta & Lele'a Sefulu Ponausuia Ali'ioaiga Salamasina & James Traywick Temukisa & Gabriel Vladimir Jimenez Saena & Samuelu Fruean Papali'i Iakopo & Tini Ierome Suaese & Lesli Iakopo Nu'uiali'i Vaa'alotasi & Lahine P. F. Ierome Mafa "Maya" Ierome



She will be dearly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018. Our Beloved Tona will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 am. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Fa'afetai - Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You

The Family

Life & Style

Ashley Judd sues Weinstein saying he wrecked her career

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ashley Judd sued Harvey Weinstein on Monday, saying the former movie mogul hurt her acting career in retaliation for her rejecting his sexual advances.

In the lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Judd accuses Weinstein of defamation, sexual harassment and violating California's unfair competition law. Judd was in the first group of women who came forward last fall about Weinstein's sexual misconduct, putting her at the forefront of the #MeToo movement.

Central to the suit is director Peter Jackson saying in December that Weinstein had warned him 20 years ago that Judd was a "nightmare" to work with, and should be avoided "at all costs." Jackson was considering Judd for a major role in his "Lord of the Rings" movies, and had met with her about the role.

This combination photo shows Ashley Judd during the 2017 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on July 25, 2017, left, and Harvey Weinstein at The Weinstein Company and Netflix Golden Globes afterparty in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Jan. 8, 2017. AP

Weinstein's company at the time, Miramax, then held the rights to "Lord of the Rings."

About a year earlier at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, Weinstein—in what was supposed to be a business breakfast meeting—appeared in a bathrobe, asked Judd to watch him shower and to let him massage her, the suit alleges. The allegations echo those Judd made in The New York Times in October.

"Cornered, and desperate to escape without angering a man who had the ability to end her budding career, Ms. Judd engaged in a mock bargain with Weinstein, suggesting that she would consider letting him touch her only if she won an Academy Award in one of his films," the lawsuits says. "Weinstein responded: 'When you get nominated.' Ms. Judd held firm, saying, 'No, when I win.' And then she fled the scene."

The suit says Weinstein lorded the Oscar statement over Judd for years afterward when he saw her in public.

Judd, 50, had no idea why she wasn't cast in the "Lord of the Rings" films until Jackson came forward last year, the lawsuit says.

Weinstein has denied trying to derail Judd's career, and said he had no role in Jackson's casting. An email to his attorney Ben Brafman was not immediately returned.

The lawsuit goes beyond many sexual harassment suits by invoking unfair competition laws against fraudulent business practices in an attempt to "shine a light on the broader economic damages caused when individuals in positions of authority attempt to punish those who have resisted their improper advances," Judd's attorney Theodore J. Boutrous Jr. said in a statement.

Jackson said Weinstein also warned him against casting Mira Sorvino, who has also alleged she is among Weinstein's victims. Jackson apologized for playing any unwitting role in the damage done to the women's careers, and the lawsuit is quick to absolve him of any wrongdoing.

The lawsuit seeks injunctions against Weinstein engaging in unfair competition and any further retaliation against Judd. It asks for damages to be determined at trial, but a statement from her attorneys said any money she is awarded will be donated to a charity that combats sexual harassment and discrimination.

The suit is among many pending against Weinstein, 66, who is also under criminal investigation in Los Angeles and New York.

Porn star Stormy Daniels sues President Trump for defamation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The porn actress alleging a sexual encounter with President Donald Trump is escalating her legal fight, suing the president for defamation.

Stormy Daniels filed the complaint in federal court in New York on Monday. At issue is a tweet Trump made in which he dismissed a composite sketch that Daniels says depicted a man who threatened her in 2011 to stay quiet about her alleged relationship with Trump.

In the tweet earlier in April, Trump said: "A sketch years later about a nonexistent man. A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!"

The filing says the tweet was "false and defamatory," arguing that Trump was speaking about Daniels and that he "knew that his false, disparaging statement would be read by people around the world, as well as widely reported." It also says Daniels has been "exposed to death threats and other threats of physical violence."

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, is seeking a jury trial and unspecified damages. Her attorney Michael Avenatti said Monday: "We intend on teaching Mr. Trump that you cannot simply make things up about someone and disseminate them without serious consequences."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. An attorney representing Trump in another legal matter in New York did not respond to an email seeking comment.

The lawsuit is the latest legal move from Daniels, who already is suing to be released from a non-disclosure deal she agreed to days before the 2016 election in exchange for $130,000. The payment was made by the president's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen. That civil lawsuit was delayed in federal court in Los Angeles on Friday, with the judge citing a criminal investigation that Cohen is facing.

Cohen asked for a delay after FBI agents raided his home and office several weeks ago. The FBI was seeking records about the nondisclosure agreement. Cohen's attorney said in court last week that because the criminal investigation overlaps with issues in the lawsuit, his client's right against self-incrimination could be adversely impacted because he won't be able to respond and defend himself.

Aided by her hard-charging attorney, Michael Avenatti, Daniels has aggressively sought to keep her case in the public eye. Several weeks ago, she revealed a sketch on ABC's "The View" that she said depicts the man who warned her in 2011 to stay quiet about a 2006 tryst with Trump. Daniels said the man approached her in a Las Vegas parking lot when she was with her young daughter.

In this April 16, 2018 photo, adult film actress Stormy Daniels outside federal court in New York. Stormy Daniels filed a defamation complaint in federal court in New York on Monday. AP

Trump faces a number of allegations about his sexual exploits long before he ran for president. The White House says Trump did not have a sexual encounter with Daniels, and the president has denied the other allegations as well.

Trump is also facing a New York defamation lawsuit filed by Summer Zervos, a former contestant on "The Apprentice." Zervos has accused Trump of unwanted sexual contact in 2007 and sued him after he dismissed the claims as made up. A judge ruled that lawsuit can move forward.

'Infinity War' record opening revised to $257.7M

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avengers: Infinity War" was even bigger than previously estimated.

The Walt Disney Co. on Monday reported final weekend numbers for the superhero smash at $257.7 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, further boosting the film's record-breaking opening weekend.

The revised figure was due to unexpectedly strong Sunday ticket sales, Disney said. The Marvel blockbuster grossed $69.2 million on Sunday, besting the record held by "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" by more than $8 million.

Disney had forecast a $250 million debut, which topped the $248 million record set by "The Force Awakens" in 2015. Accounting for inflation, "The Force Awakens" would still narrowly edge "Infinity War" by a few million.

Marvel now holds six of the top 10 opening weekends of all time, with Disney accounting for nine of the 10. "Infinity War" also set a new global opening weekend record with ticket sales exceeding $630 million worldwide.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. "Avengers: Infinity War," Disney, $257,698,183, 4,474 locations, $57,599 average, $257,698,183, 1 Week.

2. "A Quiet Place," Paramount, $11,004,977, 3,565 locations, $3,087 average, $148,528,278, 4 Weeks.

3. "I Feel Pretty," STX Entertainment, $8,176,757, 3,440 locations, $2,377 average, $29,620,318, 2 Weeks.

4. "Rampage," Warner Bros., $7,205,315, 3,508 locations, $2,054 average, $78,030,872, 3 Weeks.

5. "Black Panther," Disney, $4,736,428, 1,650 locations, $2,871 average, $688,364,917, 11 Weeks.

6. "Super Troopers 2," 20th Century Fox, $3,729,287, 2,125 locations, $1,755 average, $22,214,216, 2 Weeks.

7. "Truth or Dare," Universal, $3,268,145, 2,420 locations, $1,350 average, $35,374,140, 3 Weeks.

8. "Blockers," Universal, $2,975,260, 2,324 locations, $1,280 average, $53,246,750, 4 Weeks.

9. "Ready Player One," Warner Bros., $2,563,325, 2,365 locations, $1,084 average, $130,811,543, 5 Weeks.

10. "Traffik," Lionsgate, $1,654,694, 1,046 locations, $1,582 average, $6,786,968, 2 Weeks.

11. "Isle of Dogs," Fox Searchlight, $1,427,275, 1,001 locations, $1,426 average, $27,047,998, 6 Weeks.

12. "MET Opera: Cendrillon (2018)," Fathom Events, $1,300,000, 900 locations, $1,444 average, $1,300,000, 1 Week.

13. "A Wrinkle in Time," Disney, $981,856, 371 locations, $2,647 average, $94,930,902, 8 Weeks.

14. "I Can Only Imagine," Roadside Attractions, $777,709, 970 locations, $802 average, $81,084,294, 7 Weeks.

15. "Chappaquiddick," Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures, $694,989, 704 locations, $987 average, $15,808,830, 4 Weeks.

16. "Sherlock Gnomes," Paramount, $673,943, 731 locations, $922 average, $40,637,943, 6 Weeks.

17. "Tyler Perry's Acrimony," Lionsgate, $640,477, 540 locations, $1,186 average, $42,223,020, 5 Weeks.

18. "Bharat Ane Nenu," Great India Films, $366,996, 189 locations, $1,942 average, $3,156,805, 2 Weeks.

19. "You Were Never Really Here," Amazon Studios, $350,105, 233 locations, $1,503 average, $1,793,481, 4 Weeks.

20. "The Miracle Season," MIRR/LD, $290,939, 430 locations, $677 average, $9,441,585, 4 Weeks.

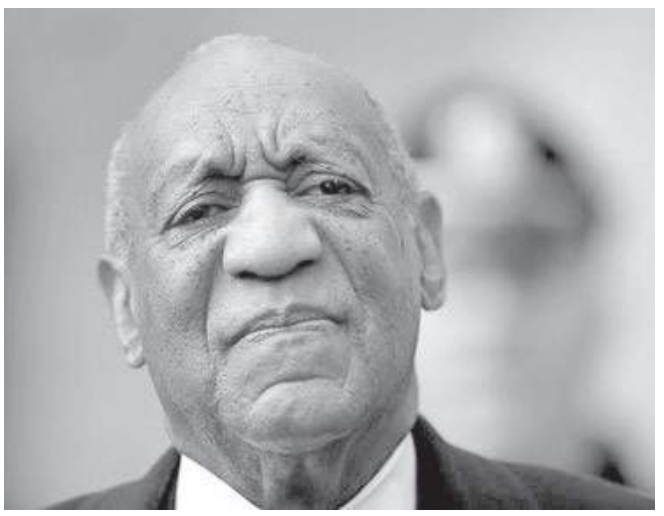
Cosby jury: Chief accuser was 'credible and compelling'

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Speaking out for the first time, the jury that convicted Bill Cosby at his sexual assault retrial said Monday it found the comedian's chief accuser to be "credible and compelling," adding its verdict had nothing to do with the #MeToo movement or any another factor outside the courtroom.

The jury wrote in a statement that it had "absolutely no reservations" about convicting Cosby of three counts of aggravated indecent assault. The youngest member of the panel, meanwhile, said in a separate TV interview that the comedian's own words about giving women quaaludes before sex in the 1970s sealed his fate.

Andrea Constand, now 45, testified that Cosby gave her three blue pills that knocked her out and then molested her at his home in 2004. The defense said it was consensual.

Cosby settled Constand's civil suit for nearly $3.4 million in 2006, and his lawyers claimed at trial that she had framed him for the money.



AP
In this April 18, 2018 file photo, Bill Cosby arrives for his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

But the jury rejected the defense argument.

"Simply put, we were asked to assess the credibility of Ms. Constand's account of what happened to her, and each one of us found her account credible and compelling," said the jury statement, which was dated Sunday and distributed Monday.

Juror Harrison Snyder, 22, told ABC that Cosby's 2005 deposition was the evidence that made him believe he was guilty.

"I think it was his deposition, really. Mr. Cosby admitted to giving these quaaludes to women, young women, in order to have sex with them," Snyder said on "Good Morning America."

Snyder said it "wasn't an open and shut case," but added he had no doubt the jury reached the correct verdict Thursday.

The investigation into Cosby was reopened in July 2015 after a federal judge, acting on a request from The Associated Press, unsealed portions of Cosby's deposition testimony from the civil suit he settled with Constand. In the testimony, which was read to jurors at both trials, he described giving quaaludes to women before sex in the 1970s. Cosby also described his sexual encounters with Constand, a Temple University women's basketball administrator.

Five other women testified at the retrial that Cosby had drugged and molested them as well, but Snyder said they weren't a factor in his decision.

"I don't think it really necessarily mattered that these other five women were here because he said it himself that he used drugs for other women," he said.

In its statement, the Cosby jury said its decision was not influenced in any way by factors other than what was seen and heard in the courtroom.

"After thoughtful and meticulous consideration of the information and evidence provided to us, we came to our unanimous verdict," the jury said. "Not once were race or the #MeToo movement ever discussed, nor did either factor into our decision, as implied in various media outlets."

Cosby, 80, is now a prisoner in his own suburban Philadelphia home and faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars as he awaits sentencing, likely within the next three months. His publicist has declared his conviction a "public lynching," and his lawyers have vowed to appeal.

Time's Up takes aim at R. Kelly over sex misconduct claim

NEW YORK (AP)—The Time's Up campaign is taking aim at R. Kelly over allegations he has sexually abused women.

The organization devoted to helping women in the aftermath of sexual abuse issued a statement Monday urging further investigation into Kelly's behavior, which has come under closer scrutiny over the last year as women have come forward to accuse him of everything from sexual coercion to physical abuse. Kelly has denied such charges.

"We demand appropriate investigations and inquiries into the allegations of R. Kelly's abuse made by women and their families for more than two decades now. And we declare with great vigilance and a united voice to anyone who wants to silence us—their time is up," the statement said.

The statement was issued by the Women of Color committee within Time's Up, which includes Oscar-nominated director Ava DuVernay, TV mogul Shonda Rhimes and actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell.

The social media campaign #MuteRKelly has sought to stop his music from being played and to cancel his concerts, and Time's Up said it is joining that call.

Specifically, Time's Up is seeking action from RCA Records, Kelly's label; Spotify and Apple Music, which stream Kelly's catalog; and Ticketmaster, which has sold tickets to his concerts. And it is calling for the cancellation of a May 11 concert in Greensboro, North Carolina.

RCA, Spotify, Apple Music and Ticketmaster didn't immediately respond to email requests placed late Sunday night.

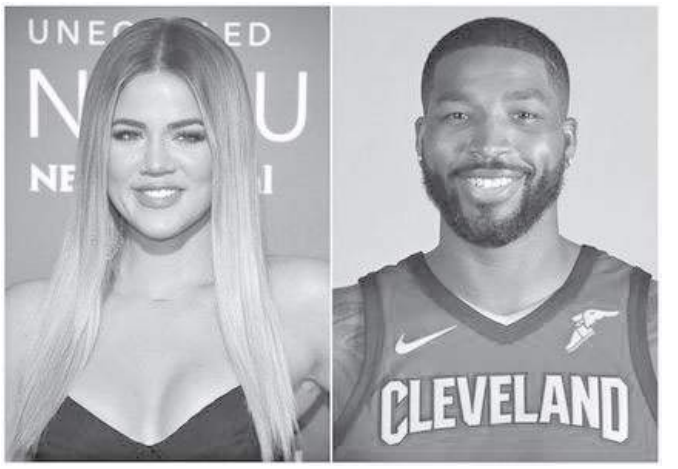
Kim Kardashian West says Khloe-Tristan situation is a mess

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian West is speaking out publicly about her sister Khloe's relationship with NBA player Tristan Thompson.

Khloe gave birth to a baby girl named True earlier this month, days after a video surfaced of Thompson where it appeared he was cheating on her. On Monday's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," Kardashian West said: "I don't even know how to describe it besides it's so (expletive) up."

She describes it as a "sad situation." Kardashian West says Khloe's main focus is on being a mom. She's taking some alone time with the baby to figure out what to do next.

Kardashian West also was careful not to say too much because she says True would one day be old enough to comprehend the situation.



AP
This combination photo shows television personality Khloe Kardashian at the NBCUniversal Network 2017 Upfront at Radio City Music Hall in New York on May 15, 2017, left, and Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson at the NBA basketball team media day in Independence, Ohio, on Sept. 25, 2017.

Meryl Streep to skip New Jersey Hall of Fame induction

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP)—Award-winning actress Meryl Streep won't be there when she's inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame next week.

The Summit native has a last-minute production conflict as part of her role in the HBO series "Big Little Lies" and won't attend the May 6 ceremony in Asbury Park.

Streep is part of a class that includes Blondie lead singer Debbie Harry, disco queen Gloria Gaynor, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and E Street Band guitarist and "Sopranos" star Steven Van Zandt.

Also among the inductees are astronauts Mark and Scott Kelly; nurse Clara Maass; politician Millicent Fenwick; athletes Al Leiter (LY'-tur), Mary Decker and Carli Lloyd; publisher Steve Forbes and "Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro.

Family closes ranks against woman without boundaries

DEAR ABBY: I need advice badly. A close family member has been living with a woman who sexually assaults people by grabbing their genitalia, kissing them forcibly on the mouth and touching their buttocks. She's completely without boundaries.

We have an important family event coming up and have decided not to invite her because we don't feel safe around her. The close family member is incensed with us, furious even. He chalks his girlfriend's transgressions up to "medical events."

Abby, are we right to not allow her to be part of situations where she will undoubtedly behave like this? Or must we "just accept it and move on," as our family member insists, in spite of being well aware of her pattern of behavior?

ANONYMOUS IN THE EAST

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Do not allow yourselves to be forced into anything that would make any of you uncomfortable. Unless this family member can GUARANTEE that his "lady" friend will not disrupt the festivities by acting out, she should not be invited.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I are grandmothers. While I enjoy a healthy relationship with my children and grandchildren, the same is not true for her.

Because of issues surrounding her divorce, she's in contact with only one of her three children. All three side with their father. Recently, her pregnant daughter ("Erin," who has mental health issues) told her mom she never wants to see her again and turned her away from the baby shower.

The only way my friend knew Erin had given birth was from social media. No one in the family told her. Although Erin unfriended her mom on Facebook, I still see her posts. Naturally, she shared the news about the new baby.

My question is, should I comment on the news? Erin knows I'm close to her mom. I'm aching to tell her to let her mom back into her life and about the importance of a relationship with grandparents. Should I? Or should I just offer my congratulations and let it be?

VALUES FAMILY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR VALUES FAMILY: By all means congratulate Erin on the new baby, but postpone the "lecture" about the importance of grandparents for a separate conversation. Right now, I doubt Erin would appreciate what you have to say. Later, when things calm down in her troubled relationship with her mother, she may be more open to your message.

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a man who insists that I pay for our dinners every time he comes to visit. He doesn't even offer. One time when I didn't pick up the check he reached across the table and handed it to me. I'm not sure how to handle this.

WORTH A TREAT IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR WORTH A TREAT: The next time this user comes to visit and hands you the check, hand it BACK and walk out of the restaurant. If he claims to have "forgotten his wallet" as well as his manners, stop dating him.

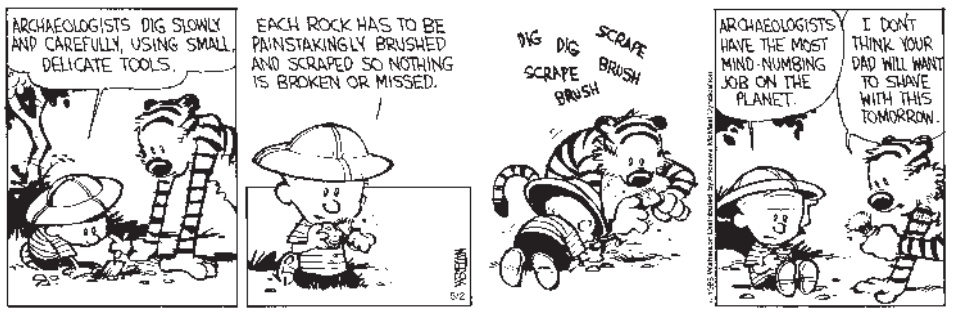
READER ALERT! If you know a student who would like to enter the $5,000 Dear Abby College Columnist Scholarship contest, see the information on DearAbby.com and learn more. The deadline is fast approaching.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

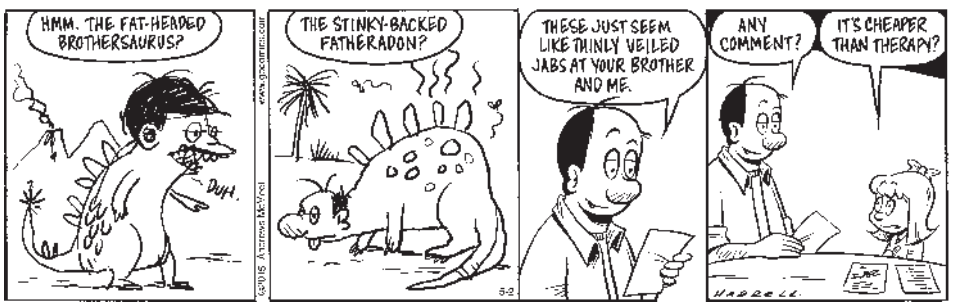

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DIG SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY, USING SMALL, DELICATE TOOLS.
EACH ROCK HAS TO BE PAINSTAKINGLY BRUSHED AND SCRAPED SO NOTHING IS BROKEN OR MISSED.
DIG DIG SCRAPE SCRAPE BRUSH BRUSH
ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE THE MOST MIND-NUMBING JOB ON THE PLANET.
I DON'T THINK YOUR DAD WILL WANT TO SHAVE WITH THIS TOMORROW.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HMM. THE FAT-HEADED BROTHERSAURUS?
DUH.
THE STINKY-BACKED FATHERADON?
THESE JUST SEEM LIKE THINLY VEILED JABS AT YOUR BROTHER AND ME.
ANY COMMENT?
IT'S CHEAPER THAN THERAPY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I BELIEVE ALL WOMEN SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY.
THAT'S ADMIRABLE.
YEAH, I FIGURE IF ONE IS GOING TO COOK AND CLEAN FOR ME, THEN WHY SHOULDN'T ALL THE OTHERS?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

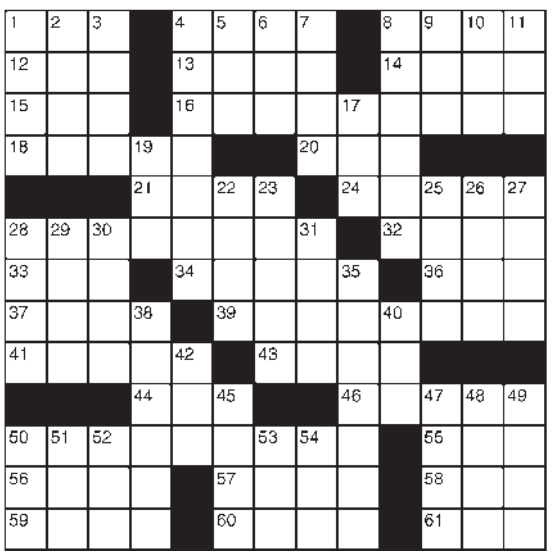
ACROSS
1 Sit-up targets
4 Daring Knievel
8 To-do list item
12 Salty expanse
13 Swampy terrain
14 Buffalo's county
15 Skillet
16 Elaborate display
18 Tea sweetener
20 Family
21 Small plateau
24 Sad song
28 Ornate wall hanging
32 Went a-courting?
33 — standstill
34 Hungarian-born financier George
36 Droop
37 Portnoy's creator
39 Foot doctor's field
41 Velocity
43 Humpty's perch
44 "Way cool!"
46 Tripoli's land
50 Imbalance between two sides
55 Singer Orbison
56 Libertine
57 Gift tag word
58 Census stat
59 Charitable gift
60 Ocean motion
61 "— Kapital"

DOWN
1 Nile vipers
2 Boyfriend
3 Crooned
4 Catherine, notably
5 By way of
6 Work unit
7 Onion relative
8 Billie Jean's sport
9 Louvre collection
10 Knightly address
11 Lock opener
17 Help
19 Soul, to Camus
22 Halt
23 Cupid's missile
25 Reddish brown
26 Equipment
27 Jittery
28 Old salts
29 On
30 Cracker spread
31 Luke's teacher
35 "What a fool I am!"
38 Winged messenger
40 "The Greatest"
42 Weir
45 Skilled
47 Pitt of "Moneyball"
48 Meditative practice
49 Pro votes
50 Altar constellation
51 Fa follower
52 "Tasty!"
53 Numerical prefix
54 Scepter

Solution time: 23 mins.

N	F	A	P		Y	O	G	I		N	F	T
A	C	L	U		E	L	E	C		I	T	O
B	O	A	R	D	G	A	M	E		C	R	Y
			S	I	G	N		C	U	K	E	S
C	O	P	E	D			D	U	N	N		
U	R	I	S		S	E	A	B	O	A	R	D
R	E	N		E	E	R	I	E		M	O	O
B	O	A	R	D	E	R	S		P	E	S	O
		F	A	I	R			M	I	S	E	R
F	R	O	N	T		P	O	C	L			
O	E	R		O	V	E	R	B	O	A	R	D
A	B	E		H	I	I	E		I	H	U	D
L	A	S		S	A	S	S		S	I	N	S

Yesterday's answer 5-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Busch, 33; Ellie Kemper, 38; David Beckham, 43; Dwayne Johnson, 46.

Happy Birthday: Treat past failures as a lesson; you'll breeze by any obstacles you encounter this year. Using indiscretion and moderation will help you gain greater perspective and encourage the development of solid strategies that will help you set and maintain higher standards. Don't let criticism interfere with your performance or your ability to finish what you start. Your numbers are 5, 12, 18, 22, 25, 34, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Tidy up unfinished business. Look over settlements, contracts or medical information that will help you prepare for the future. Taking care of someone else's affairs may be daunting but necessary. Take the initiative and do what needs to be done. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* It's OK to do things differently. Use your imagination to come up with a plan that encourages better relationships with important people; you will be able to find a solution to pending problems. Take better care of your health. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotions will be difficult to control. Be wary of what you are told or what transpires. Your intuition will not serve you well and can lead you into a precarious situation if you are misinformed or you don't look at the facts. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Being conscientious with others will help you create new opportunities. Your attentiveness will pay off as long as you are the one gathering information instead of sharing your personal information with someone who may use it against you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Your playful attitude and ability to relate to those of all ages will give you the edge when dealing with group activities. Speak freely about the changes you want to make, and valuable input will help you round out your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Settlements, joint finances and domestic matters will have to be looked at carefully. Demands will be voiced, and being fully prepared to counteroffer will be in your best interest. Meetings are favored as long as emotions are controlled. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Discussing personal matters with a partner or someone you want help from will bring you peace of mind and help you gain direction for how to move forward with your plans. Short trips and personal growth are favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Someone from your past or whom you work with will not be honest with you. Question contracts, negotiations and joint ventures that aren't unfolding the way you expect. A poor diagnosis regarding health issues will be a concern. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* The way you handle loved ones, partners or those who have an influence on the changes you want to bring about will make a difference to the outcome. Don't allow your emotions to interfere with making the right decision. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Dealing with someone who is emotionally unstable or an individual who has meant something to you in the past will create instability or uncertainty in your life. Don't believe everything you hear. Shy away from secret encounters. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Your target should be on how you earn your living and the best way to use your skills, experience and knowledge to reach your financial goals. An opportunity to make extra cash is apparent. Consider starting a small, home-based business. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take better care of your health. Be cautious dealing with friends or relatives who tend to take advantage of you. Concentrate on the people who have similar interests and are willing to put in as much as you are to obtain success. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, bold and aggressive. You are mindful and evasive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	2			6	3	5	7
7			9					1
4			8					9
1			5				2	
	2	5					3	
6			4			5		
5			2			6		
2			3		9			
	9	7			8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	2	5	3	9	4	7	1
4	3	9	7	1	8	2	5	6
1	5	7	4	6	2	8	3	9
6	7	5	1	9	4	3	8	2
9	2	4	3	8	7	6	1	5
3	8	1	6	2	5	7	9	4
2	1	6	8	5	3	9	4	7
7	9	3	2	4	1	5	6	8
5	4	8	9	7	6	1	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SQUIGGLY Solution: 5 letters

B	N	B	R	I	A	L	O	C	A	C	O	C	D	G
R	R	K	T	E	T	A	L	U	D	N	U	O	E	N
O	A	U	P	G	A	Z	G	I	Z	R	O	N	S	I
W	G	N	I	D	N	I	W	H	V	D	E	V	I	T
S	E	S	R	I	G	I	G	E	L	R	N	O	G	I
C	I	T	C	Ⓞ	Ⓖ	Ⓞ	Ⓛ	E	A	I	I	L	N	R
O	T	L	S	Y	S	S	M	L	K	C	T	U	A	W
D	A	E	L	L	E	R	E	E	O	O	N	T	S	D
E	L	R	R	R	I	L	E	I	R	R	E	E	A	N
V	I	U	I	U	E	L	L	T	R	S	P	D	F	A
I	C	E	Q	C	D	E	U	D	N	F	R	R	I	H
S	S	S	T	D	D	O	N	A	M	R	E	K	O	J
R	N	R	I	I	U	U	K	A	E	N	S	P	I	N
U	I	W	W	S	O	Y	K	S	C	O	S	I	N	E
C	T	W	I	S	T	E	C	H	I	L	L	E	R	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Rutherford

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Morton, Astros end Yanks' 9-game win streak

HOUSTON (AP)—Charlie Morton pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning and struck out 10 as the Houston Astros snapped the New York Yankees' nine-game winning streak with a 2-1 victory Monday night.

Carlos Correa had two hits and an RBI for Houston in the first meeting between the teams since Game 7 of last year's AL Championship Series, when Morton allowed two hits over five innings for the win in a 4-0 victory that sent the Astros to the World Series.

Houston has won seven straight at home against the Yankees including the postseason, holding them to no more than one run in their past six games here.

Morton (4-0) had allowed just one hit when Gleyber Torres chased him with a two-out double in the eighth. Brad Peacock walked pinch-hitter Aaron Judge, who didn't start for the first time this season, and Torres stole third base.

Chris Devenski replaced Peacock and was greeted with an RBI single by Gardner that cut the lead to 2-1. Devenski then fanned AL player of the week Didi Gregorius on three pitches to end the inning.

Sonny Gray (1-2) yielded four hits and two runs while walking three in six innings to snap a streak of three straight starts in which he didn't get out of the fifth inning.

"I thought it was a step in the right direction for me, personally, but unfortunately Morton was a little bit better—maybe a lot better," Gray said.

AP

Houston Astros' second baseman Jose Altuve (27) misses the throw for the double play at second base as New York Yankees' second baseman Gleyber Torres (25) is safe on a double during the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, April 30, 2018, in Houston.

Red Sox 10, Royals 6

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a grand slam over the Green Monster and Boston finished April with its most wins ever by beating Kansas City.

Mitch Moreland hit a solo homer and had three hits along with Bogaerts for the Red Sox, who posted their 19th victory in April. They had reached 18 three times, the last coming in their World Series-winning 2013 season.

Whit Merrifield had three hits and two RBI for the Royals, who were coming off their first consecutive wins this season.

Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock hit three home runs and Arizona topped Los Angeles in the opener of a four-game series between NL West rivals.

Zack Greinke struck out a season-high 10 in six innings as Arizona won for the 12th time in the last 13 regular-season meetings.

Indians 7, Rangers 5

In Cleveland, Jose Ramirez's RBI double broke an eighth-inning tie and Cleveland rallied for a win over Texas.

Texas scored twice in the top of the eighth to go ahead 4-3, but the Indians quickly regained the lead by scoring four times against Chris Martin (0-1).

Nationals 3, Pirates 2

In Washington, Tanner Roark pitched seven efficient innings and drove in his first run since 2016, and Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Roark (2-2) allowed two runs and six hits, struck out four and induced two double play grounders for his first win since April 2 as the Nationals ended a disappointing April with their second straight victory.

Giants 6, Padres 5

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Nick Hundley lined a two-run single off San Diego closer Brad Hand with two outs in the ninth inning to give San Francisco a comeback victory.

The Giants scored in only two innings and trailed 5-3 in the ninth before rallying for their third straight win and seventh in nine games.

Cubs 3, Rockies 2

In Chicago, Jon Lester pitched effectively into the sixth inning, continuing an impressive stretch for Chicago's rotation and helping the Cubs beat the Colorado for their season-high fifth straight victory.

Lester allowed two runs and five hits, struck out five and walked three. Luke Farrell (1-0) worked 1 1/3 innings of perfect relief for his first career win, and Steve Cishek got two outs for his first save.

Brewers 6, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, homers by Manny Pina and Lorenzo Cain ended Milwaukee's historically bad slump, and Domingo Santana doubled home the go-ahead runs in the seventh inning for a victory over Cincinnati.

The Brewers managed only two runs while getting swept four games at Wrigley Field, matching their lowest total for a four-game series. They had 14 hits total, their worst for such a series, and were blanked on two hits in each of the past two games.

Blue Jays 7, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Justin Smoak and Russell Martin homered, Yangervis Solarte had three hits and Toronto edged Minnesota.

Smoak hit a towering, two-run shot to cap a three-run fourth inning to stake Toronto to a 5-0 lead. Martin added a solo homer to the second deck in left field an inning later as the Blue Jays won their second game in a row.

Marlins 8, Phillies 4

In Miami, Brian Anderson homered, drove in four runs and made a diving catch in right field with the bases loaded to preserve a lead, helping Miami beat Jake Arrieta and Philadelphia.

The Marlins have won three games in a row for the first time this season, and five of six. The Phillies lost their third consecutive game.

Arrieta (3-1) lasted only 3 2/3 innings. He allowed six earned runs after giving up three or fewer in each of his past 18 starts.

Rays 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, C.J. Cron and Brad Miller each homered in the ninth inning and Tampa Bay held on for a victory over Detroit.

With the game scoreless, Detroit closer Shane Greene (1-2) walked Denard Span to start the ninth. Cron followed by hitting a 2-0 fastball into the right-center field seats for his seventh homer of the season. After Matt Duffy popped out, Brad Miller homered into the left-field bullpens to make it 3-0 and end Greene's night.

Cowboys want Super Bowl hosting do-over, and draft was start

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys want a do-over on hosting the Super Bowl after horrid weather and a seating fiasco ruined their first try seven years ago.

While the wait will easily be more than a decade and with no indication the big game is coming back soon, last weekend's draft at least showed the NFL that what is becoming its spring Super Bowl went off without a hitch in North Texas.

"Obviously we've got a little chip on our shoulder about that one because we had a snowstorm and it didn't go perfect," executive vice president Stephen Jones said last week, referring to the 2011 title game.

"There's a big school of thought in the league that these things should go to kind of vacational-type spots, South Florida and Southern California and Phoenix and New Orleans. I get that. We'd still like a redo there."

The Cowboys hosted the first draft in an NFL stadium, and the league said about 100,000 people showed up in and around AT&T Stadium in Arlington, halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth, for the first round Thursday night.

Crowd size was limited by the league to about 20,000 indoors, using just one end of the 80,000-seat stadium with a retractable roof, which was closed. The largest screens of the giant video board that hangs over the center of the field were mostly out of view.

The theater setup is still preferred by the NFL for an event that spent many years at Radio City Music Hall in New York before back-to-back drafts in Chicago and last year's popular stop in Philadelphia on the steps of the art museum in front of the Rocky statue.

This larger venue allowed officials to try something they'd been thinking about for a while. Groups of seats designated for fans of each team on the field in front of the stage were a hit. The idea derived from political conventions fed what officials thought was an energetic setting.

"It exceeded our expectations in terms of the energy down here," said Peter O'Reilly, who oversees special events for the NFL. "It's been a terrific event for us as the draft continues to evolve."

As always, the Cowboys were worried about the weather. It was just about perfect, unlike the unprecedented ice storm that paralyzed the Dallas area most of the week before the Super Bowl. Of course, that was in midwinter.

On top of that, about 400 fans ended up without a place to sit when roughly 1,250 seats in temporary bleachers were declared unsafe hours before kickoff in Green Bay's 31-25 victory over Pittsburgh.

A lawsuit faulted Jerry Jones for trying to break the Super Bowl attendance record of 103,985 (it fell 766 short), and the outspoken Cowboys owner was forced to testify in federal court.

There was no such drama this time, and the draft accomplished what the Cowboys wanted: treating their fans while showcasing Texas as one of football's cradles.

"It's understated even, as big as it is, how much the fans love the draft and love the drama and uncertainty that goes with it," Stephen Jones said. "For our fans to be able to touch it and go out there and see what it's all about and see this first-hand ... this is football country."

Stephen Jones doesn't expect the draft to come back soon because the idea now is to move it annually. O'Reilly isn't sure it will be in a stadium again because each city has ideas about how to make the draft unique.

Super Bowls have been awarded through the 2021 season , including two with new stadiums (Atlanta, Los Angeles) and another with a renovated one (Miami, which will get its record 11th title game).

Celtics' rising stars school Sixers in Game 1

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's rising stars stalled The Process and led the Celtics to victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Substitute point guard Terry Rozier scored 29, and first-year Celtics forward Jayson Tatum had a career-high 28 points to outplay redshirt rookie Ben Simmons on Monday night and lead Boston to a 117-101 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

With much of the attention focused on 76ers youngsters Simmons and Joel Embiid, Boston's youth movement of Tatum and Rozier led the way. Two days after scoring a career playoff-high 26 points in Game 7 against Milwaukee, Rozier topped it, while also adding eight rebounds and six assists.

"It's been a dream come true. I want to keep going," said Rozier, who was wearing a Drew Bledsoe Patriots jersey to milk one more chuckle out of his pseudo-feud with vanquished Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe. "I'm just a guy just living in the moment."

Embiid scored 31 points with 13 rebounds for Philadelphia, which lost for just the second time in 22 games. Simmons, the likely rookie of the year, scored 18 with seven boards and six assists.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) shoots against Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) and guard JJ Redick (17) in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Monday, April 30, 2018, in Boston. The Celtics won, 117-101.

But with six days of rest since eliminating Miami, the Heat missed 15 of their first 20 shots and hit 5 of 26 from 3-point range to lose for just the second time since March 13.

"We're NBA players and we have to be ready," Embiid said. "We weren't ready tonight."

Al Horford had 26 points and seven rebounds for Boston, which will host Game 2 on Thursday night. The Celtics are hoping to have guard Jaylen Brown back from a hamstring injury he sustained in the clincher against the Bucks, leaving him sidelined along with Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward.

Playing in place of Irving, Rozier picked up where he left off in the first round by scoring 10 points and six assists in the first quarter on Monday night. He was 7 for 9 from 3-point range overall, combining with Tatum to overshadow the lottery picks accumulated by Philadelphia during The Process.

The first overall pick in the 2016 draft who sat out all of last year with an injury, Simmons was heckled by the Boston crowd with chants of "Not a Rookie!" In the fourth quarter, as Tatum stepped to the free throw line to protect a double-digit lead, the chant turned to "He's a Rookie!"

"I love when people talk trash," Embiid said. "Keep bringing it, and we'll see how it goes."

Tatum was Boston's first pick last year—third overal—after swapping the No. 1 pick to the Sixers and grabbing a 2018 first-rounder as well. Philadelphia picked Markelle Fultz; he did not play on Monday night.

"It's been great to see Jayson and Terry and just our guys play like that," Horford said. "I think that Jayson's starting to figure it out. ... And it's great to see for our team."

It was 33-all with just over seven minutes left in the half when the Celtics ran off 10 points in a row. Horford had four of the five baskets and assisted on the other. Boston led 87-70 in the final minute of the third quarter when Philadelphia scored nine straight points to make it a nine-point game.

After Simmons made a layup to make it 97-88, Horford hit a 3 from the top of the key with 5:30 left and it was never within single digits again.

Up until about an hour before game time, Brown was still trying to figure out a way to play on his strained right hamstring.

The Celtics' second-leading scorer in the first round with 17.9 points per game, Brown was finally ruled out about a half-hour before tipoff following a conversation with doctors, trainers and Horford.

"Jaylen's a competitor, I know he was doing everything he could to be out there," Horford said. "His health is most important. We didn't want any setbacks with him. One of the things when I talked to him, I was like `Hey, we obviously really need you out there, but we need you for the long run. We need you to be healthy and to feel good.'

"Hopefully now he has a couple of day to recover and he'll be back Thursday."

Raptors rested, ready for third shot at LeBron and Cavaliers

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto Raptors seem to have everything lined up in their favor heading into their postseason matchup against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

They're rested. The Raptors feel they are ready. They have home-court advantage.

But they've been confident before heading into a playoff showdown with James and have come up short—twice.

"Gotta go through the best to get to that trophy," All-Star guard DeMar DeRozan said. "Every step of the way we're going to come across somebody."

The Raptors open their second-round playoff series at home to James and the Cavs on Tuesday night. Cleveland has eliminated Toronto in two straight postseasons, including the 2016 conference finals and a second-round sweep last year.

This time, however, Toronto is the top-seeded team in the East after a team-record 59-win season. The Raptors have been off since a Game 6 victory over Washington last Friday night finished their first-round series, while James and the Cavs were pushed to the limit in grinding out a Game 7 win over Indiana on Sunday.

That's a stark contrast to 2016, when Cleveland had eight days of rest before facing a Toronto team that had played consecutive seven-game series. Or last year, when the Cavs got a week off while waiting for Toronto to complete a six-game victory over Milwaukee in the opening round.

"They're coming off a series where they were banging and bumping for seven games," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "I think our energy has been great. I think the days off will definitely have helped us a little bit."

James, meanwhile, has shouldered a heavy load for the Cavs, scoring 40 or more three times in the first round. He played 43 minutes in Game 7, and was briefly forced off the court in the second half because of leg cramps.

Nevertheless, Raptors coach Dwane Casey expects James to be fully fresh once tip-off time arrives Tuesday.

"I don't believe he's tired," Casey said. "He's on a mission. I'm not saying he's a lying man, but I don't think he's tired.

Trump hurting joint 2026 World Cup bid

WASHINGTON—U.S. President Donald Trump is not helping the combined U.S.-Mexico-Canadian World Cup bid. Not at all.

On Monday, in a joint-press conference with Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari, Trump asked for African countries, and others, to support the campaign for the three North American nations to land the 2026 edition of the world's biggest sporting event.

"I hope all African countries and countries throughout the world—that we also will be supporting you, and that they will likewise support us in our bid along with Canada and Mexico for the 2026 World Cup," he said. "We will be watching very closely and any help that they can give us in that bid we would appreciate."

It was widely inferred that the last sentence was a thinly veiled threat. Because it came in the context of a Trump tweet on Thursday in which he all but demanded global support for the bid, in exchange for American "support" for them. It was unclear what he meant by the latter, or how he conflated it with a United Nations gripe.

Trump seemed to put Buhari on the spot by asking for Nigeria's backing for the U.S. bid.

This is problematic for all sorts of reasons. Firstly, it violates a FIFA rule against government interference into domestic soccer affairs. The U.S. is the leader of the triple-bid—60 of the 80 games, including the opener and the final, would be played stateside—but its portion of the bid is handled by U.S. Soccer, under the domestic soccer federation's authority. It is no business of the government's, and in the past, FIFA has come down hard on similar interference.

In 2014, for instance, Nigeria, of all countries, was suspended from international competition by FIFA for two months because of government interference.

Then there's the fact that Trump famously insulted African nations yet now expects their loyalty, even though the only rival bid to North America's comes from Morocco. It's fairly standard for nations to back bids from their own continent.

Whatever help Trump believes he's contributing is more likely to backfire than actually buttress the bid. This isn't a partisan point. And it isn't even necessarily about the violation of FIFA rules—which are unlikely to result in significant punishment for the bid.

This is about anti-American sentiment. The biggest issue with the United States-led bid is that it includes the United States. You'll recall that when a series of law enforcement raids swept through FIFA meetings almost three years ago, putting a fair few of the game's power brokers behind bars, or at least expelling them from the sport, the FBI and Department of Justice were the primary forces. A lot of soccer nations haven't forgotten that. And they're not exactly grateful.

For the first time, every soccer federation will have a vote in assigning the 2026 World Cup, after that privilege was stripped from the notoriously bribe-able Executive Committee, which has since been replaced by an expanded FIFA Council.

Jam Shooters try to catch Thursday League leaders

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 9 Eleven MJD Warriors and the Sands Team SCS pose for a group last week after their match in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

The Brannon's Jam Shooters are trying to catch the leaders in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League, with the hope of at least gaining a foothold of a Top 3 finish this season.

The Jam Shooters made their first step after a masterful 12-1 win over the cellar-dwelling VFW Assassins last week.

Brothers Senen and Lito Pangelinan, and the former's son Albert, and Roger Espiritu showed strokes of their genius on the pool table when they nearly blanked their lowly opponents. The Jam Shooters' lone loss was in one of the five Partners 8-Ball events when Lito and his nephew Albert were beaten by the Assassins duo of Jason "Spartan" Reyes and Henry Reyes.

The win hiked the Jam Shooters' record to an even 65-65 for fifth place, just four games behind the 69-61 record of the 9 Eleven Titans. The Assassins dropped to 39-91 to remain at the bottom of the eight-team field. Sister teams 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball (85-45) and MJD Warriors (77-53), and the Amari's IT&E Homeboyz (70-60) are currently the Top 3 squads in the Thursday League.

In other results in the Thursday League last week, the Titans breezed to a 10-3 decision over the Homeboyz, while the Warriors and 8 Black Ball completed similar 9-4 wins against Team SCS and Intensity 8.

Meanwhile, in the Tuesday League results, the 9 Eleven Wildboyz squeezed out a 7-6 victory over the Tasha's The Masterstouch, while the Destroyers clinched a 9-4 triumph against the 670 Builders, and the Str8 Black Ball trounced the Hustlers, 10-3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
9 Eleven Str8 Black Ball players pose for a photo before their game against the Brannon's Docomo Hustlers in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League last week.

670 Akkeri earns fourth straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Akkeri is on a roll as it notched its fourth win in a row after topping the Ol'Aces Extra, 89-75, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Akkeri banked on a strong start to take control of the match en route to posting a double-digit winning margin.

Prince Factor led the 670 Akkeri's early run, as he scored 11 points in the first quarter, which ended with his team ahead by 15, 31-16. Factor drew a lot of help from his teammates, as Edgar Pangelinan, Ben Lisua, and Don Teregeyo knocked in at least two field goals apiece in the 670 Akkeri's first-period uprising. Three other 670 Akkeri players also hit the board in the opening 10 minutes of play.

The Ol'Aces Extra, behind Leroy Rangamar, tried to mount a comeback in the ensuing quarters, but could not overhaul the deficit, as Factor continued to find his mark and get support from his teammates.

Factor had a team-high 27 points, while Fred Litulumar also finished in twin digits with 12, making 6 of them in the final canto to keep the 670 Akkeri's safe distance. Kyle Rios, Teregeyo, and Pangelinan chipped in 10 markers apiece to provide balance in the winning team's offense.

Rangamar carried the heaviest load for the Ol'Aces Extra, as he exploded for 41 points and buried eight triples—three straight to close out the scoring for his squad. Santos was the only other Ol'Aces Extra player to earn double figures after making 11.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics are still unbeaten after winning via forfeit against the Saints.

NUIQUE

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in every hit and take down for the entire three, five-minute rounds. In the end, Nuique was declared the winner via UD, with all three judges scoring the fight at 29-28.

"Auzzy is one tough warrior. The Guam Muay Thai camp is tough as nails as well. So, I prepared myself for what I was going to get into," he said. "No one knows what would be the outcome of every match. No one ever expects to go the distance so that's where preparation kicks in."

Nuique added that time has been his number one enemy, as he was occupied in the past with a dozen other things.

"The desire [to train] has been there. Putting in the time needed was just my problem. Now that my head is cleared and I have straighten things up, it would be nothing but grind time from here on for about four months," Nuique added, hinting an upcoming fight.

TANHOLDINGS

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goals for the newly-crowned champion with the former drawing first blood for TanHoldings-1 and tying the game in the 22nd minute. Ten minutes earlier, MP United made it to the board first, thanks to Andrew Chung's shot.

The match remained tied in the first half before Roque broke loose from his defender and knocked in a right cross in the 37th minute to put TanHoldings-1 in front. Narvaez then drilled the insurance for the eventual champion after he found the back of the net three minutes before the 60-minute game wrapped up.

With the victory, TanHoldings-1 finished the double-round robin competition with an 8-1-1 mark, while MP United, after the loss, dropped to a 6-1-3 slate, bringing the team down to third place behind Kanoa-1 (7-1-2).

TanHoldings-1's three goals in the final game brought the group's total this season to 63—the most scored by any team in the entire league—including the boys U15 and U18 and girls U16 divisions. MP United finished the competition with 55 goals.

Meanwhile, Kanoa-1 jumped to second place without breaking a sweat in its last game, as it won via forfeiture against Matansa. Kanoa-1 was automatically handed a 3-0 victory, upping the team's goal total to 55. It yielded the least goals in the division with 26.

In other results in the final weekend of the league, TanHoldings-2 managed to avoid a shutout this season, as it won over Kanoa-2, 6-3.

Monico Claridades towed TanHoldings-2 to its only victory this season after scoring four goals. He completed a hat trick right after the first half after hitting his target in succession with his first shot rolling in at the ninth minute. Claridades' two other goals in the first half were recorded in the 15th and 25th minute, while he also closed out for TanHoldings-2 after logging his fourth goal in the 43rd. TanHoldings-2's two other goals came from Mary Joy Aniana and Eros Estolas in the 31st and 35th minute, respectively.

Kanoa-2 got a pair of goals from Markus Pelisamen and one from Paul Lizama. Kanoa 2 finished the season with a 2-1-7 record.

SAIPAN

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ano, and Joaquin Lizama had an RBI each in their team's 12-run scoring barrage in the third inning.

Adriano went perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, and scored four runs. His bunt single in the fourth moved Jaydon Lizama to third before the latter scored on a miscue by the Twins, who committed a total of 22 errors.

Roque Celis pitched a near-shutout game allowing a hit—a leadoff single to Alfred Gonzales in the first—while fanning five and walking one.

Pinch runner M.J. Tudela scored the lone run for the Twins when he stole home at the bottom of the second.

Meanwhile, no games were played in the Junior League division last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, as the first match between the Braves and the Falcons was cancelled due to the wet field, while Comets I won by default against Comets II.

2018 PSS High School Basketball Tournament Finals

JON PEREZ

Saipan Southern High School players, coaches, and supporters pose for a photo after beating Marianas High School in the finals of the 2018 PSS High School Basketball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Renato Gaviola Jr., center, looks for a teammate to pass the ball two as he is up against two Saipan Southern High School defenders.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Glen Matalog tries to save the ball from going out of the baseline during their title match versus Marianas High School.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's N-Nes Siech, center, floats for a jumper against two Marianas High School defenders.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Sean Apasan, right, pulls up for a point-blank shot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Chiochi Dela Cruz, right, tries to dribble past Marianas High School's Eric Leon Guerrero.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Tommy Lee Augustine, left, blocks Saipan Southern High School's Emmanuel Cobacha.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Jedial Manalo, second left, is forced to kick the ball out, as he is challenged by two Saipan Southern High School defenders.

Morton, Astros end Yanks' 9-game win streak

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TanHoldings-1 rules U13 division

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings-1' Harry Domulot, left, scans the pitch before making his move, while MP United's Leo Takahashi stays close on defense during the second half of their co-ed U13 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club-1 made sure there won't be a playoff for the co-ed U13 division championship, as it downed MP United FC, 3-1, in a deciding game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

TanHoldings-1 entered last weekend's match with a 7-1-1 win-draw-loss record, while MP United and Kanoa-2 were close behind, holding similar 6-1-2 marks, and pressed to prevail in their respective games to force a three-way tie for the top spot.

The complicated deadlock, however, did not happen, as TanHoldings-1, which needed only a draw to prevent the standoff, willed itself to a victory over MP United. Angelo Pulido, Mark Joseph Roque, and Ariel Narvaez delivered the

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

Nuique eyes to keep fighting form

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Mark "The Dark" Nuique is hoping to keep himself sharp and in fighting form so he could avoid another string of losses in mixed martial arts events.

Nuique spoiled Austin "Auzzy P" Petrus' debut with a unanimous decision win over the Guam Muay Thai warrior in one of the two semi-main events in the Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown held last Friday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

"Right now, I just got to keep my sword sharp and stay focused. I'm actually looking into Brazilian Jiu-jitsu tournaments. As for MMA fights, I'll leave that up to my coach [Cuki Alvarez]," Nuique told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nuique improved to 10-7 with the win. Five of his victories were by knockout, while four by submission and one by decision. Two of his seven defeats were by TKO—the last against Sang Hyun Park in last year's ROP 21: Throwdown—and five by submission. His loss against Park was his third straight since winning over Pete Cepeda by rear-naked-choke submission in ROP 19: Seek & Destroy on April 22, 2016. Nuique, before his win against Cepeda, also lost four straight bouts from 2012 to 2014.

In ROP 23, Nuique had to grind it out against Petrus, as the two were evenly matched pound-for-pound with the Guam fighter giving the local warrior a hard time

See NUIQUE on Page 26

JON PEREZ

Mark "The Dark" Nuique, left, tries to block the several knee shots of Austin Petrus of Guam Muay Thai during the semi-main event bout in last Friday's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Bank of Saipan, Cubs crush foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Bank of Saipan and the Cubs scored similar one-sided victories over their respective opponents in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Bank of Saipan cruised to a 14-5 win over the Comets, while the Cubs were merciless against the Twins and dealt their opponents a 23-1 crushing.

Greg Perez had a lot of defensive support from the infield to help Bank of Saipan clinch its second straight win.

Perez was tagged with three earned runs on 10 hits. He fanned six and had no walks in five plus innings on the mound. Demarlane Santos replaced him after three batters at the bottom of the sixth. Perez, before sitting out the sixth, struck out Comets leadoff batter Banjo Manglona and picked up a Sunny Pangelinan grounder for a 1-3 play and quick two outs. He then gave up a single to Anton Indalecio before Santos replaced him.

Santos got the last out when the relief pitcher forced Fernando Sanchez to fly out to right fielder Scott Iglesias.

Ezra Ada went 2-for-4 with three runs, while Jesse Stole was 3-for-4 with two runs and an RBI in Bank of Saipan's eight-run inning at the top of the fifth inning.

Patty Mendiola tossed 4.5 innings in start for the Comets, surrendering an earned run on six hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

JON PEREZ

A Bank of Saipan pitcher waits for the catcher's signal during an earlier game against the Bridge Capital Pirates in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Cubs 23, Twins 1

Jaydon Lizama, Albert Adri-

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